THE GHOST IN THE SHELL

STAND ALONE COMPLEX

EPISODE1:SECTION9

001

Yu Kinutani

Translation by
Andria Cheng

Adaptation by
Michael Braff

Lettered by
North Market Street Graphics

KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

Ghost in the Shell Standalone Complex 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC,
San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682334522

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

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HONORIFICS EXPLAINED

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha Comics not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics books.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as yobisute, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

GHOST IN THE SHELL
STAND ALONE COMPLEX

EPISODE1:SECTION9

001

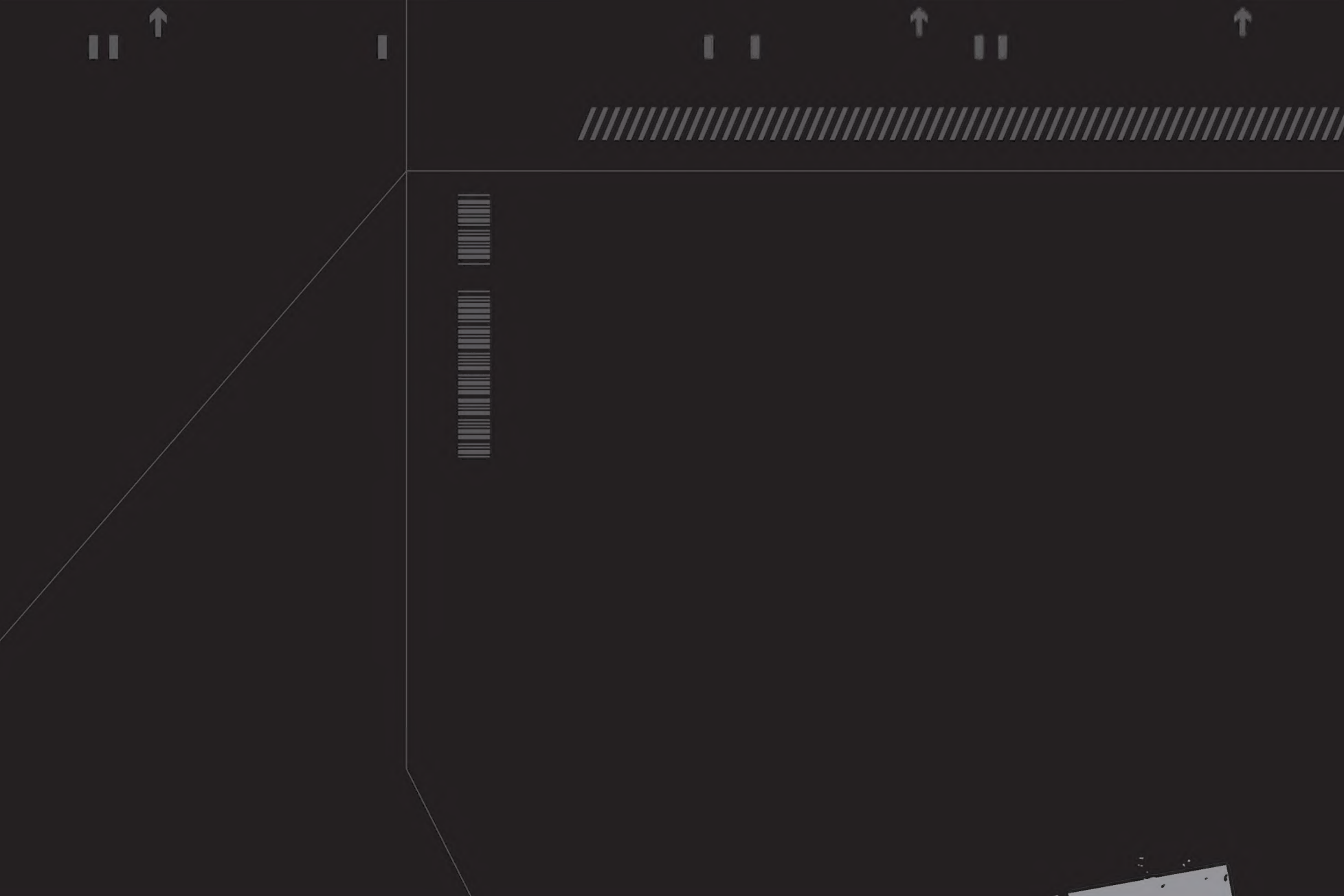
GITS / SAC / E1:S9

YU KINUTANI

SHIROW MASAMUNE
PRODUCTION I.G

Ghost in the Shell
Stand Alone Complex
Episode 1: Section 9
Yu Kinutani

001



THE GHOST IN THE SHELL

STAND ALONE COMPLEX

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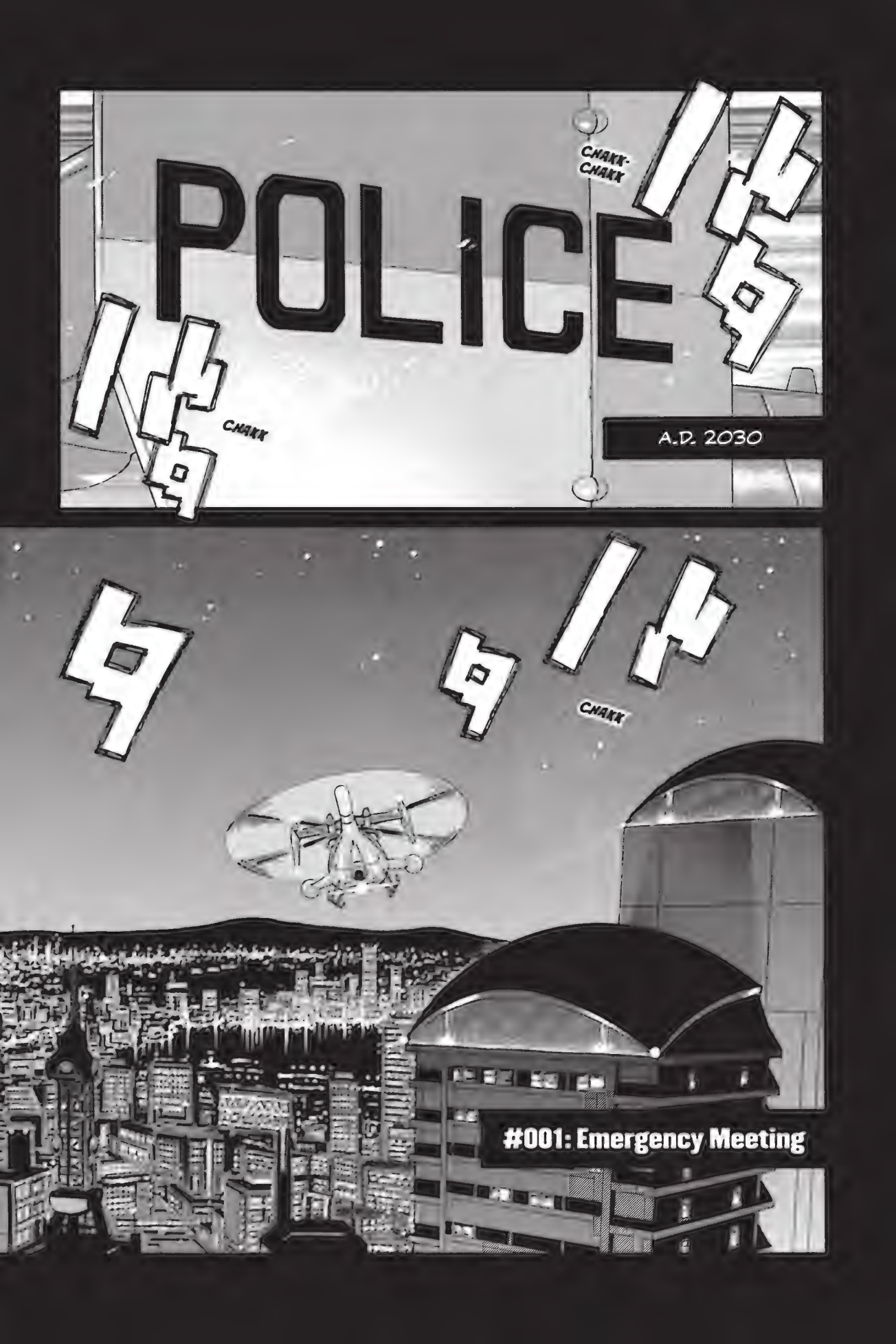
IN A TIME WHEN CONSCIOUSNESS CAN BE DIGITIZED AND UPLOADED TO THE NETWORK, ONLY THE "STANDALONES" REMAIN OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM.


POLICE
CHAKK-CHAKK
CHAKK
A.D. 2030
CHAKK
#001: Emergency Meeting

POLICE
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
NEW PORT CITY
POLICE

ROOOOOAR

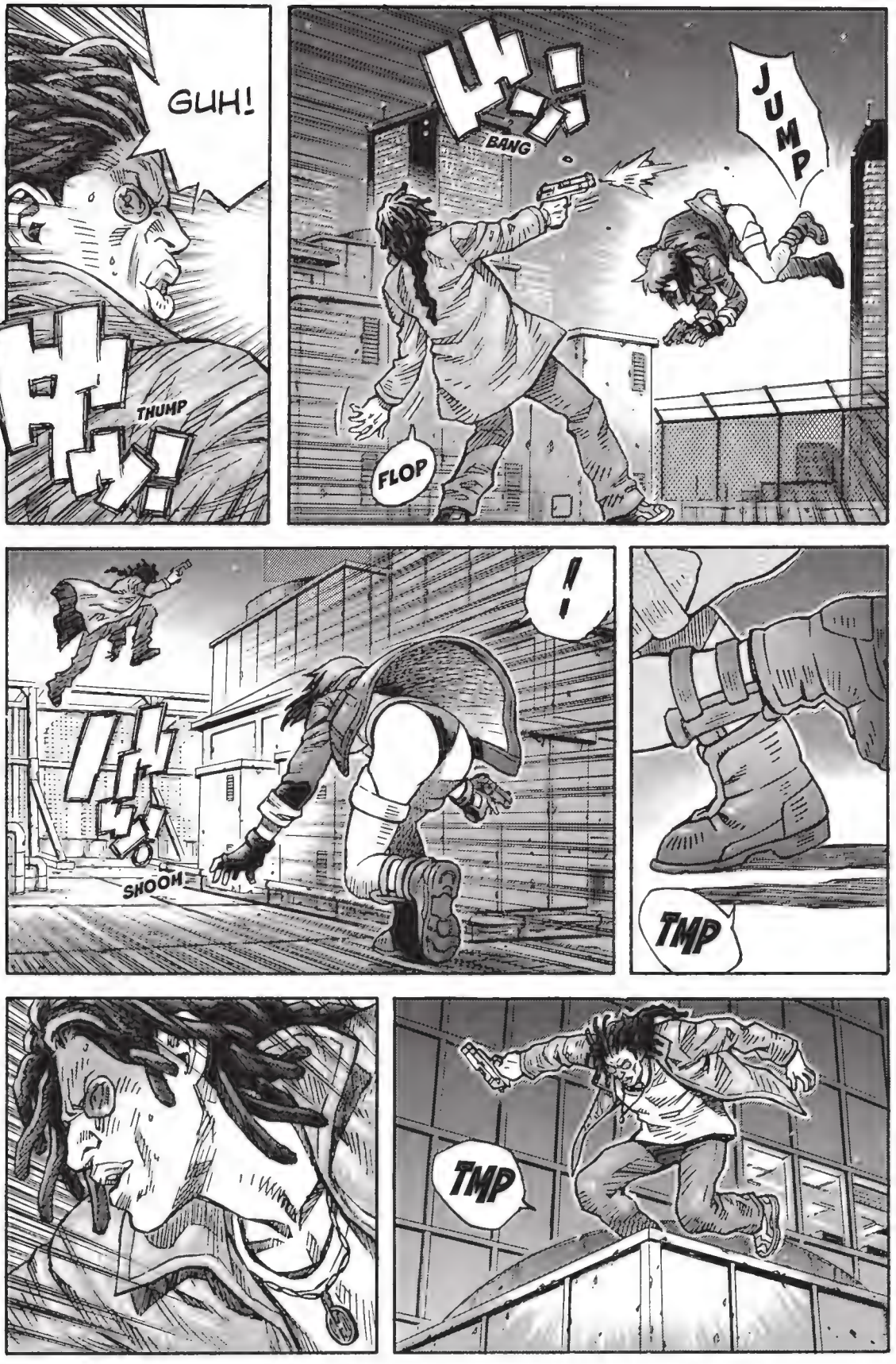
ROOOAR
KSSSH KSSSH
TELE-PATHIC MES-SAGE...
THIS IS DREAD... SOMER-SET, YOU THERE?
I'VE RIGGED THE SLEEPING GAS CANISTERS TO THE WALLS AND ROOFTOP AIR CONDITIONER.
ROGER.
PUSH

SHUU
SET TO 0220 HOURS. WAIT FOR THE SIGNAL.
KLIK
SHOOM
FOOSH
OZ

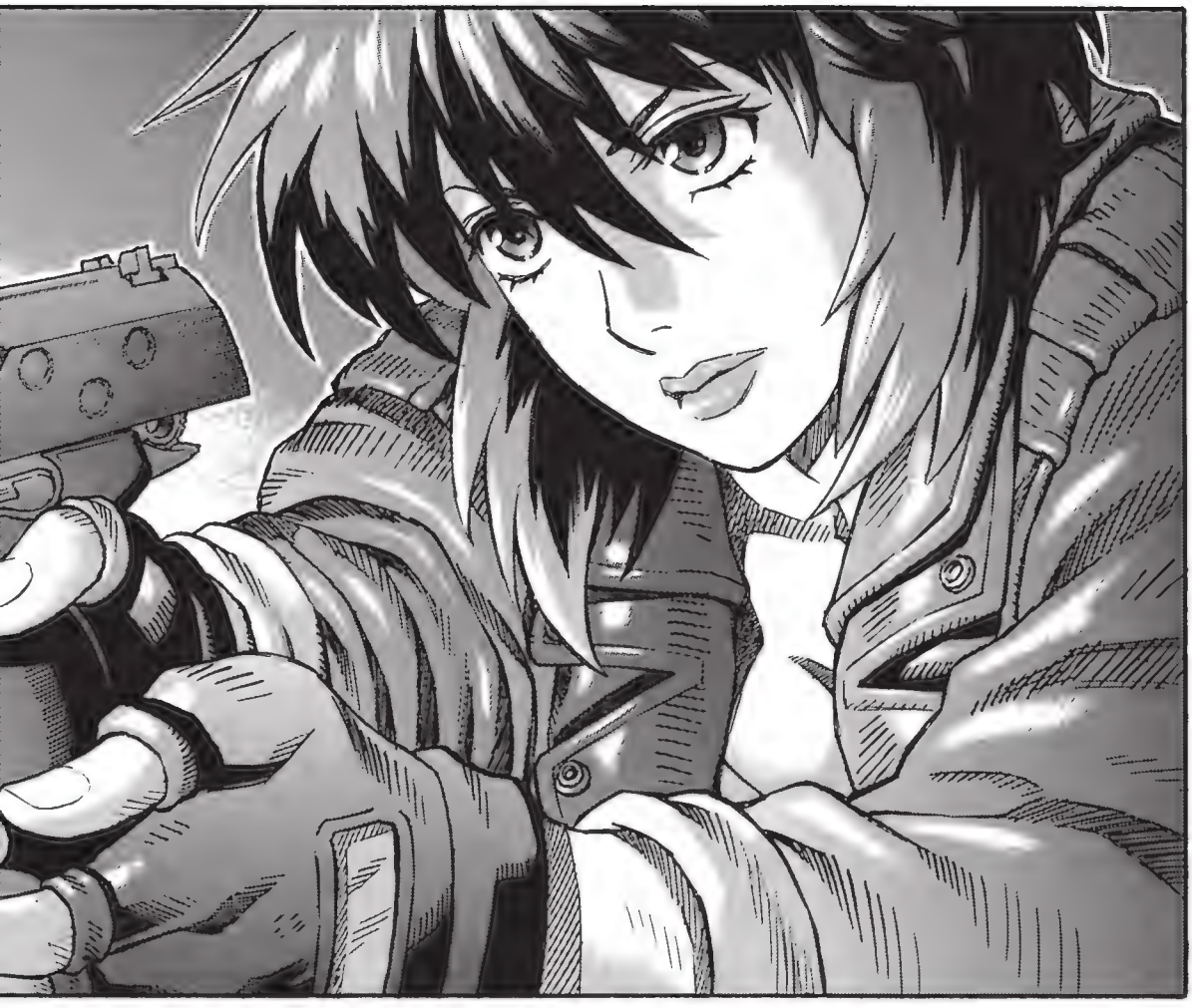
WHISH
SHUUU
CRUNCH
WHUMP

UGH!!
BANG
BANG
SHOOM
TMP
BANG
BANG
JUMP
BAM
SHOOM

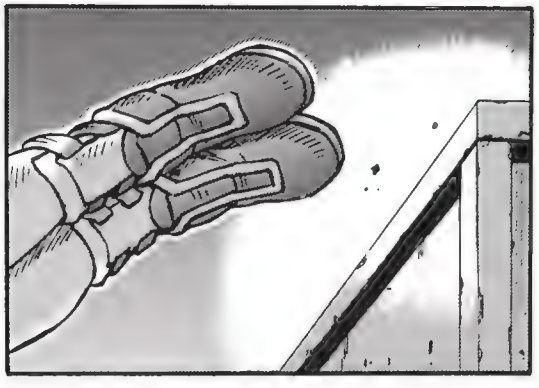
CRACK
POP
AGGHH!!
THWACK
UNGGH!!
KRUUUNCH


GUH!
THUMP
BANG
JUMP
FLOP
!
SHOOH
TMP
TMP

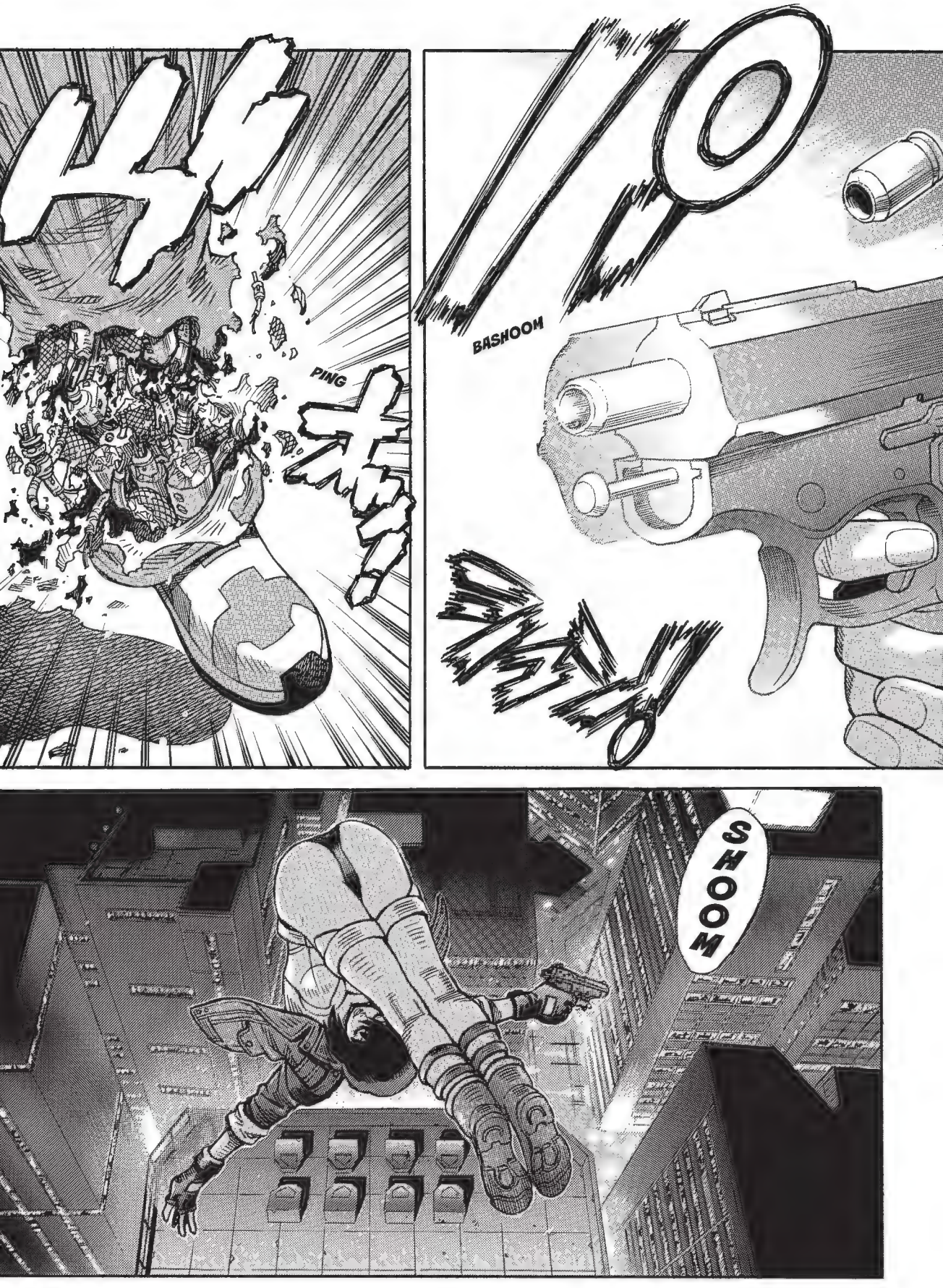
ZOOM
CLICK
THUMP!
SHOOM
LYAAA-
AAHHH!
CLICK
KRSSSH...

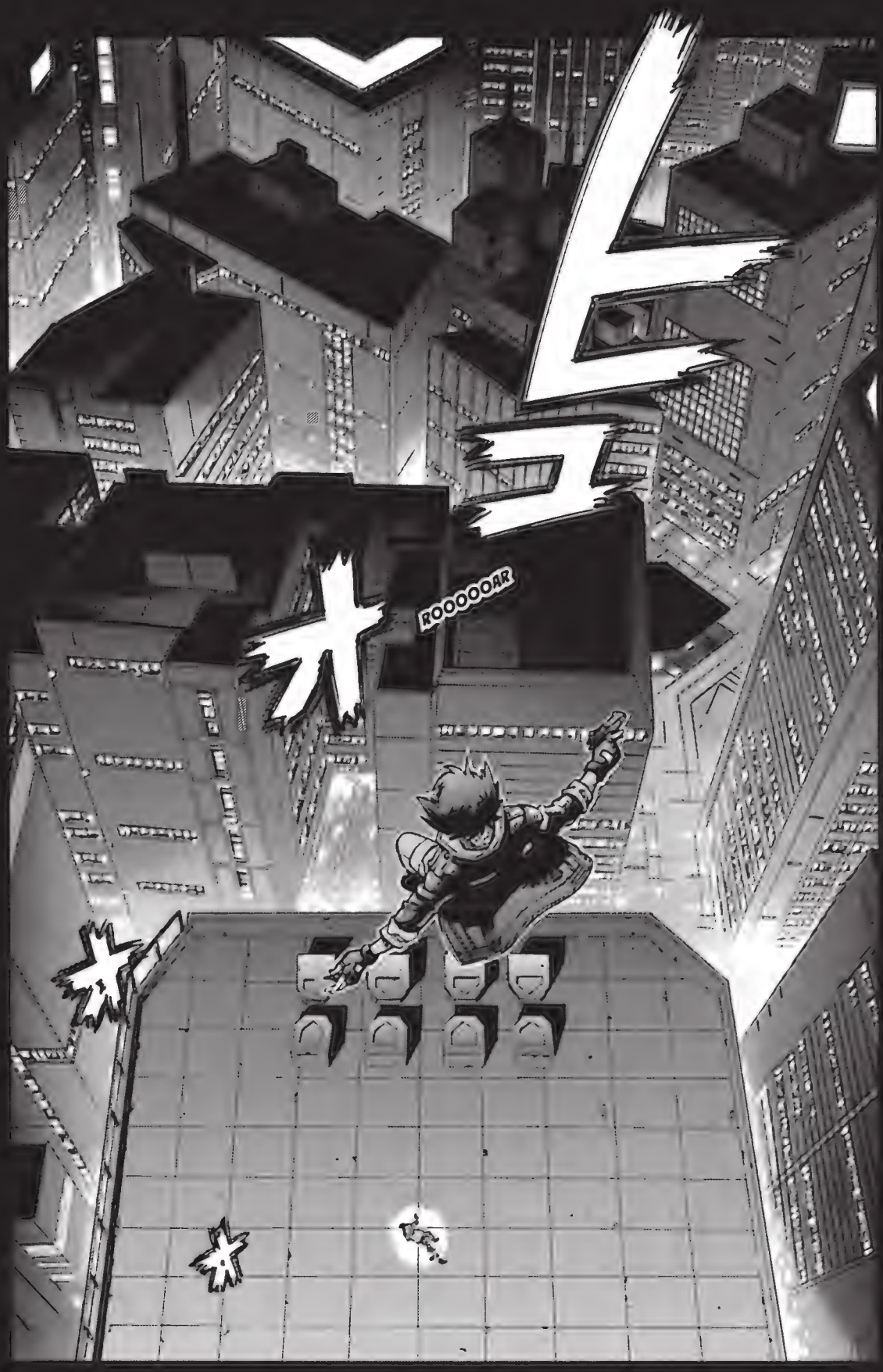


GUUH!
THUD



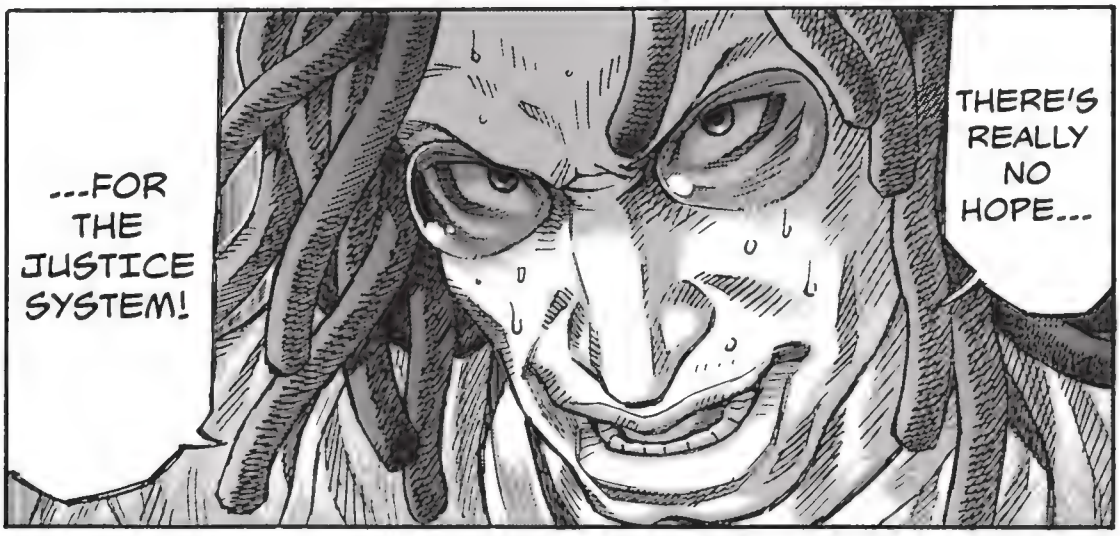
WHAA ?!


PING
BASHOOM
SHOOM


ROOOOOAR

CLICK
UGH...
GASP!
AAGHHH!
KRUNCH
KSSHH
KRACK
SNAP
CLENCH
SON...
OF...A...
BITCH...!

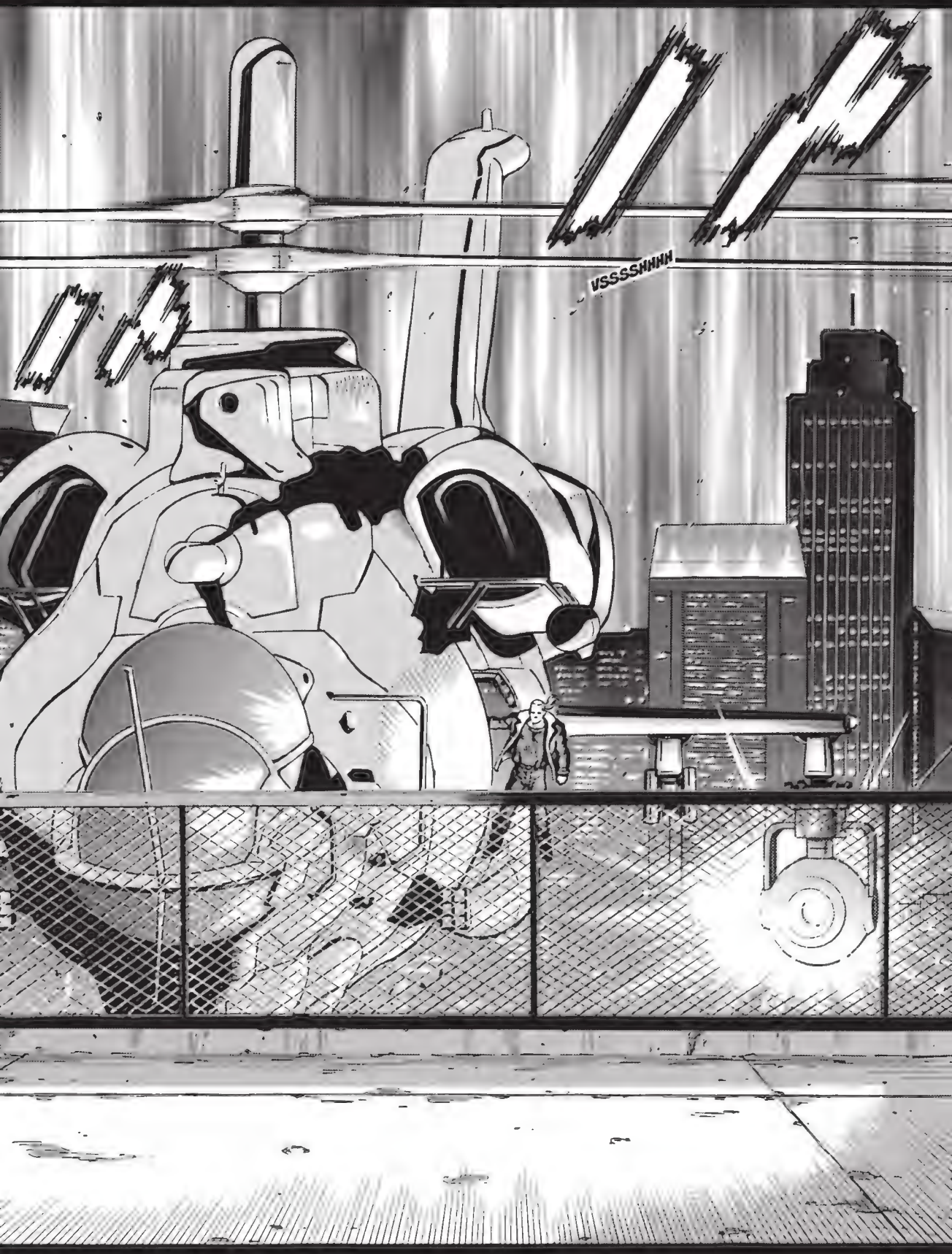
YOU...
...YOU GUYS ARE COPS?!
UGHH
ROOOOAR


THERE'S REALLY NO HOPE...
...FOR THE JUSTICE SYSTEM!

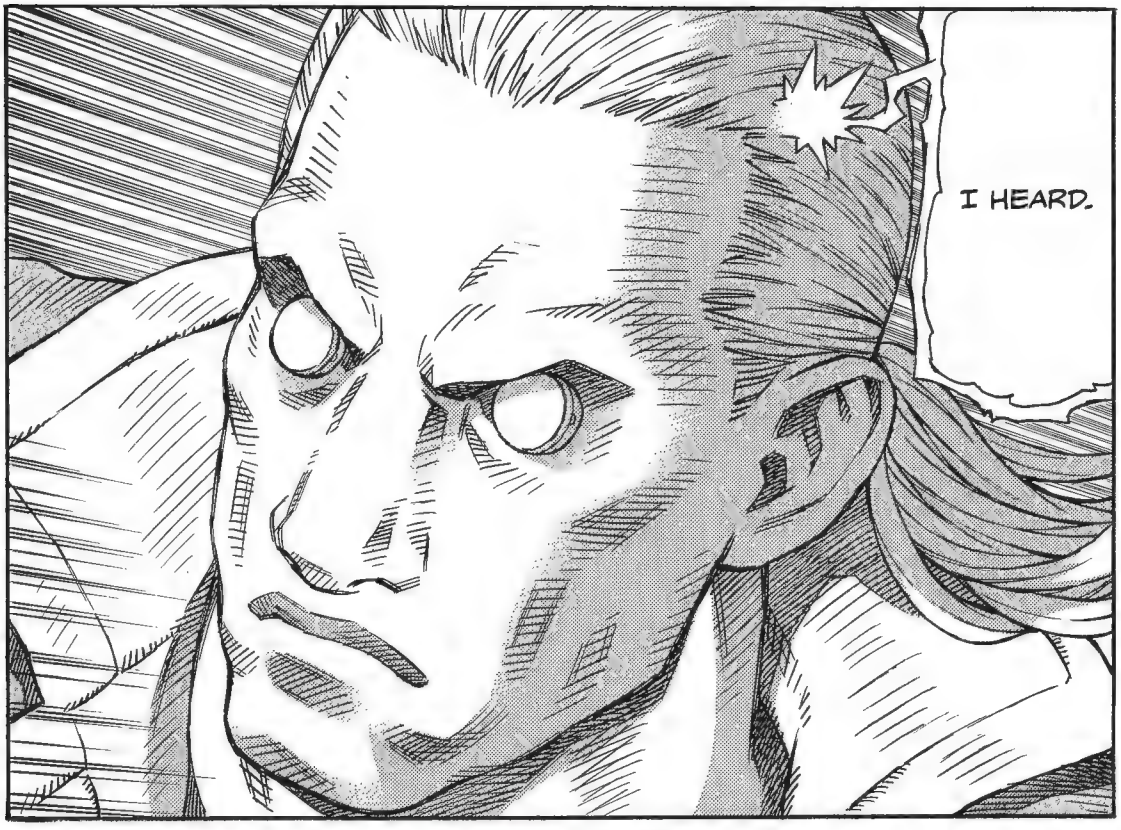
AND IF YOU DON'T WANNA DO THAT, THEN SHUT UP AND LIVE ALONE!
IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T LIKE ABOUT THE WORLD, CHANGE IT YOURSELF.
AND IF THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD TO YOU...

!!
SHOOK
KSSSH
MAJOR KUSANAGI!
!
CHIEF ARAMAKI!
UGH!
---!!
CLENCH

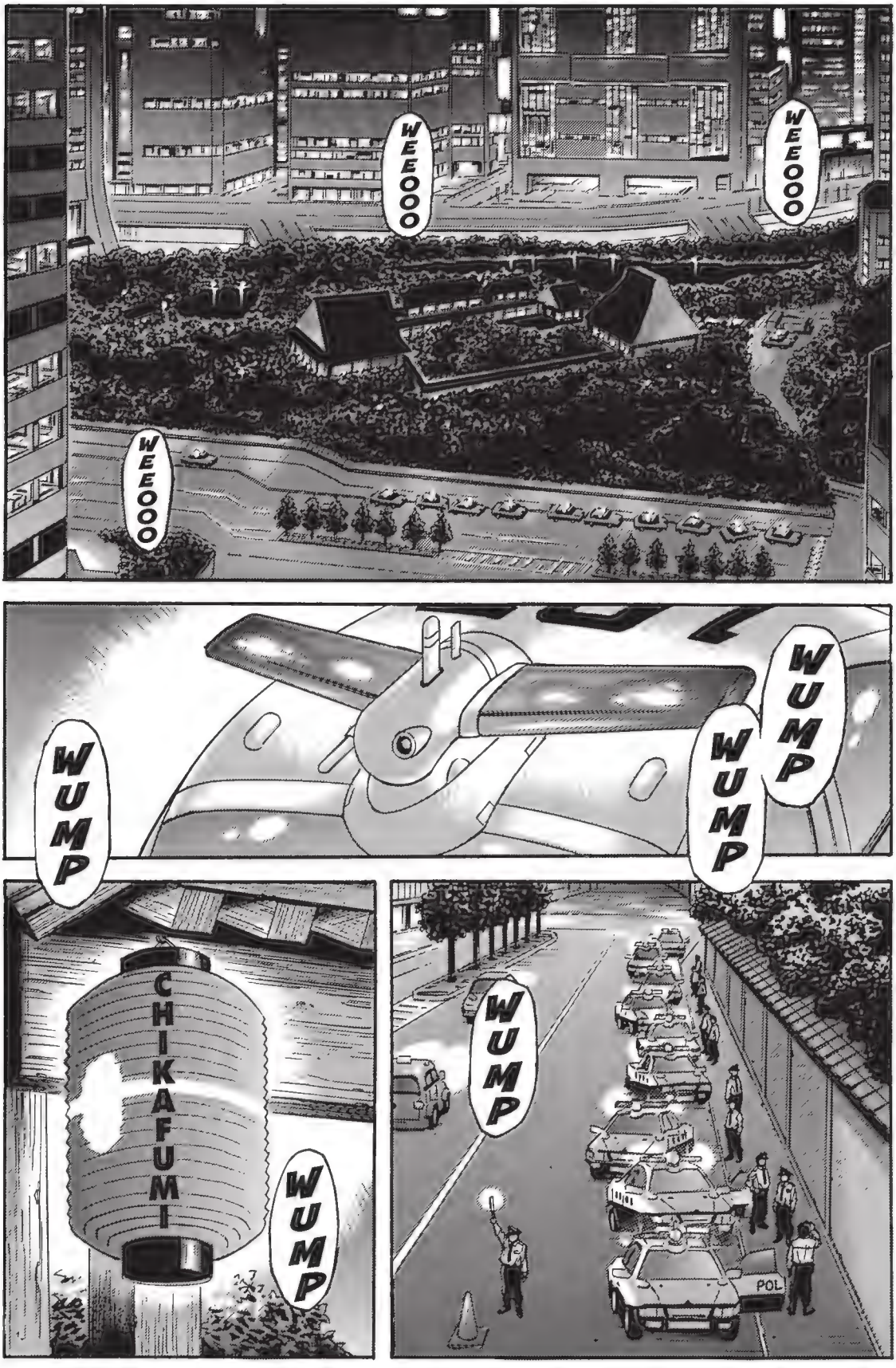
CHAK
CHAK
CHAK
ASSEMBLE THE TEAM WITH A2 LOADOUT!
CHCHCHAKKKCHAK
LOCATION 82-D3!
CHAKK
VOOSH
VOOSH
VOOSH
VOOSH
GET THAT, BATŌ?


VSSSSHHHH

VSSSHH
YEAH...
WHIIIRRRR
WHIIIRRR


I HEARD.

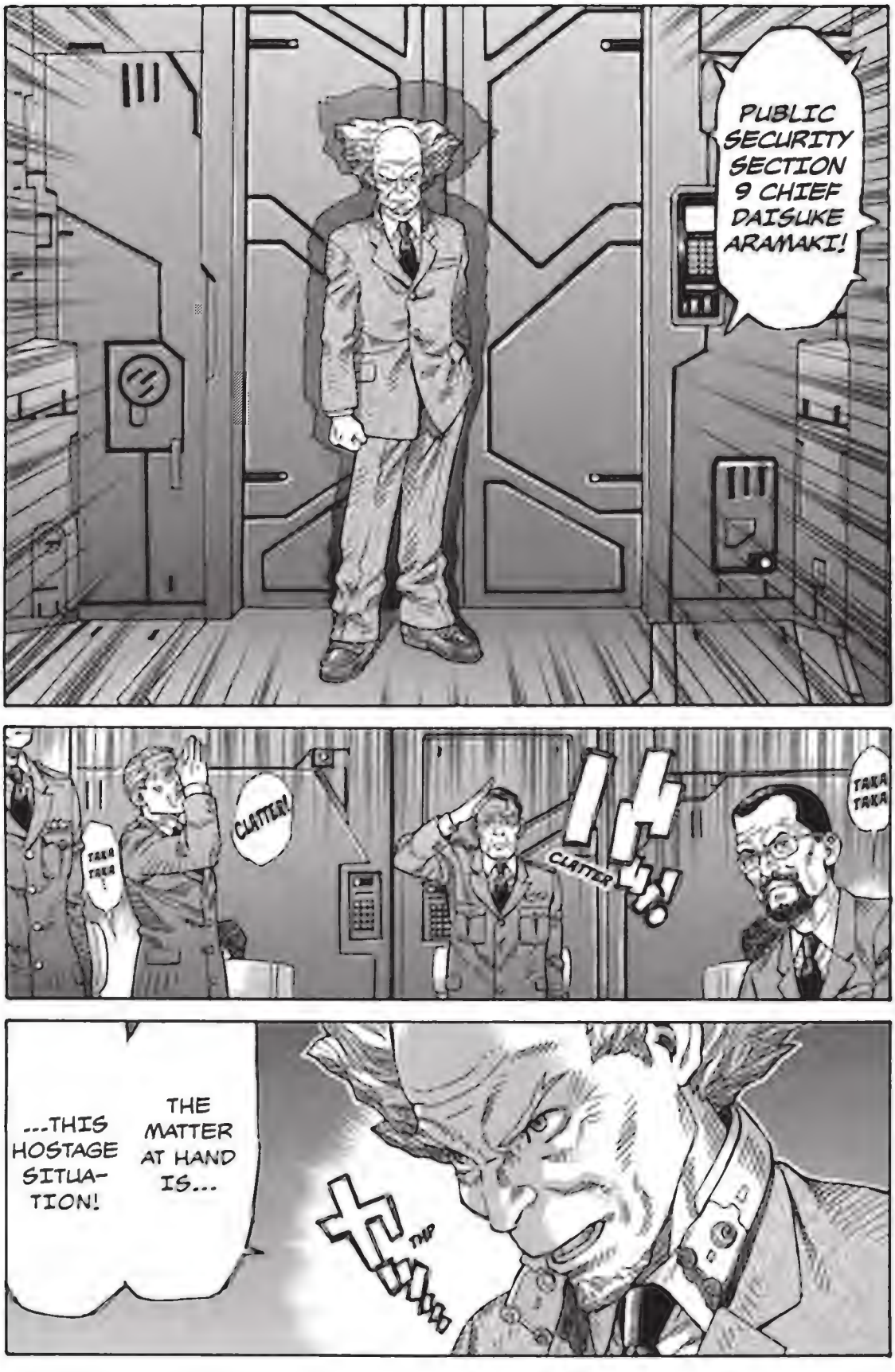
APPARENTLY IT'S SOME HIGH-CLASS ESTABLISH-MENT.
ALL MEMBERS OF PUBLIC SECURITY SECTION 9.

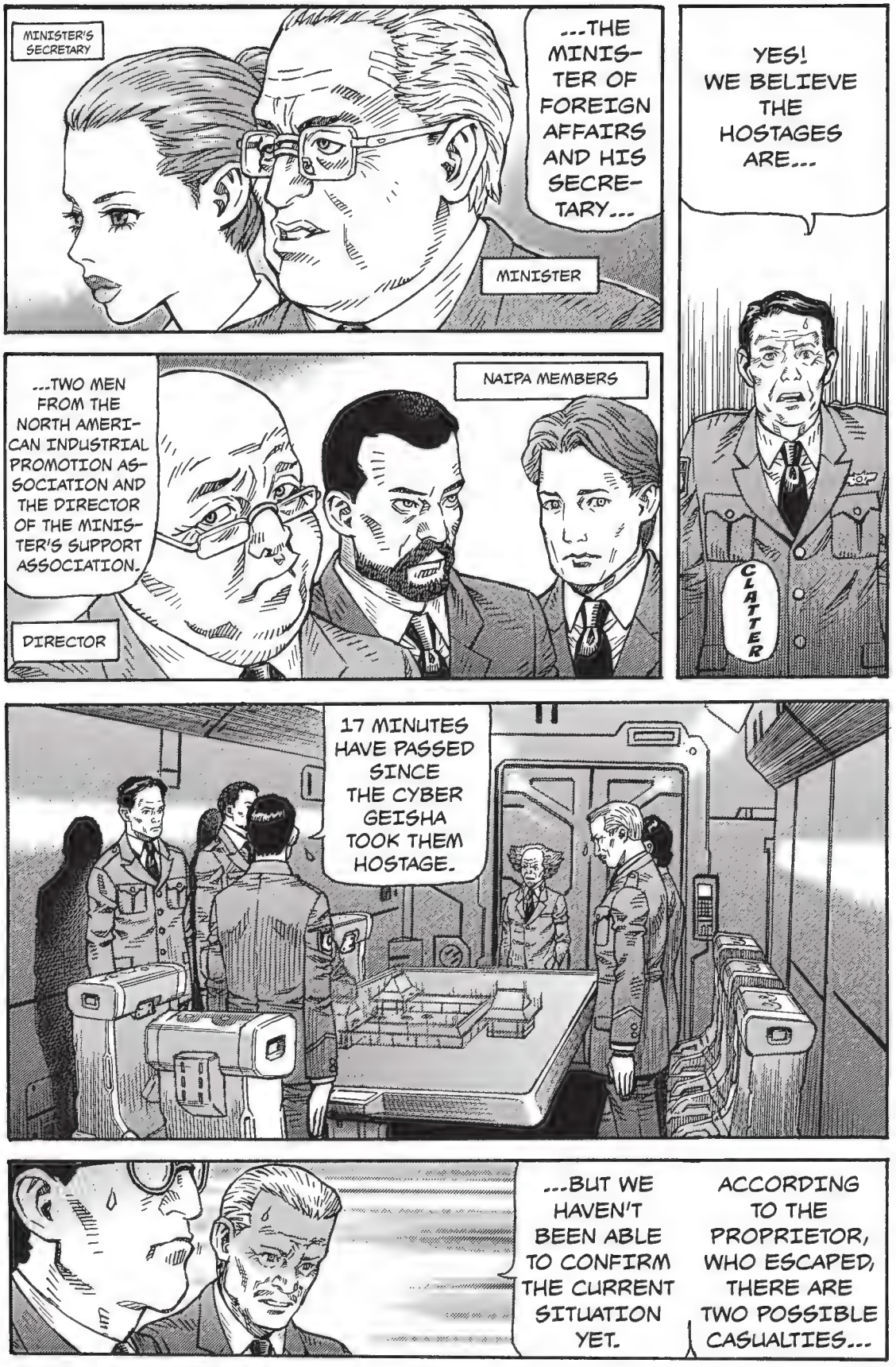

WEEOOO
WEEOOO
WEEOOO
WUMP
WUMP
WUMP
WUMP
CHIKAFUMI
WUMP
WUMP
POL

TMP
TMP
THUMP
WEEOOO
WEEOOO
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
WEEOOO
WEEOOO
NEW PORT POLICE

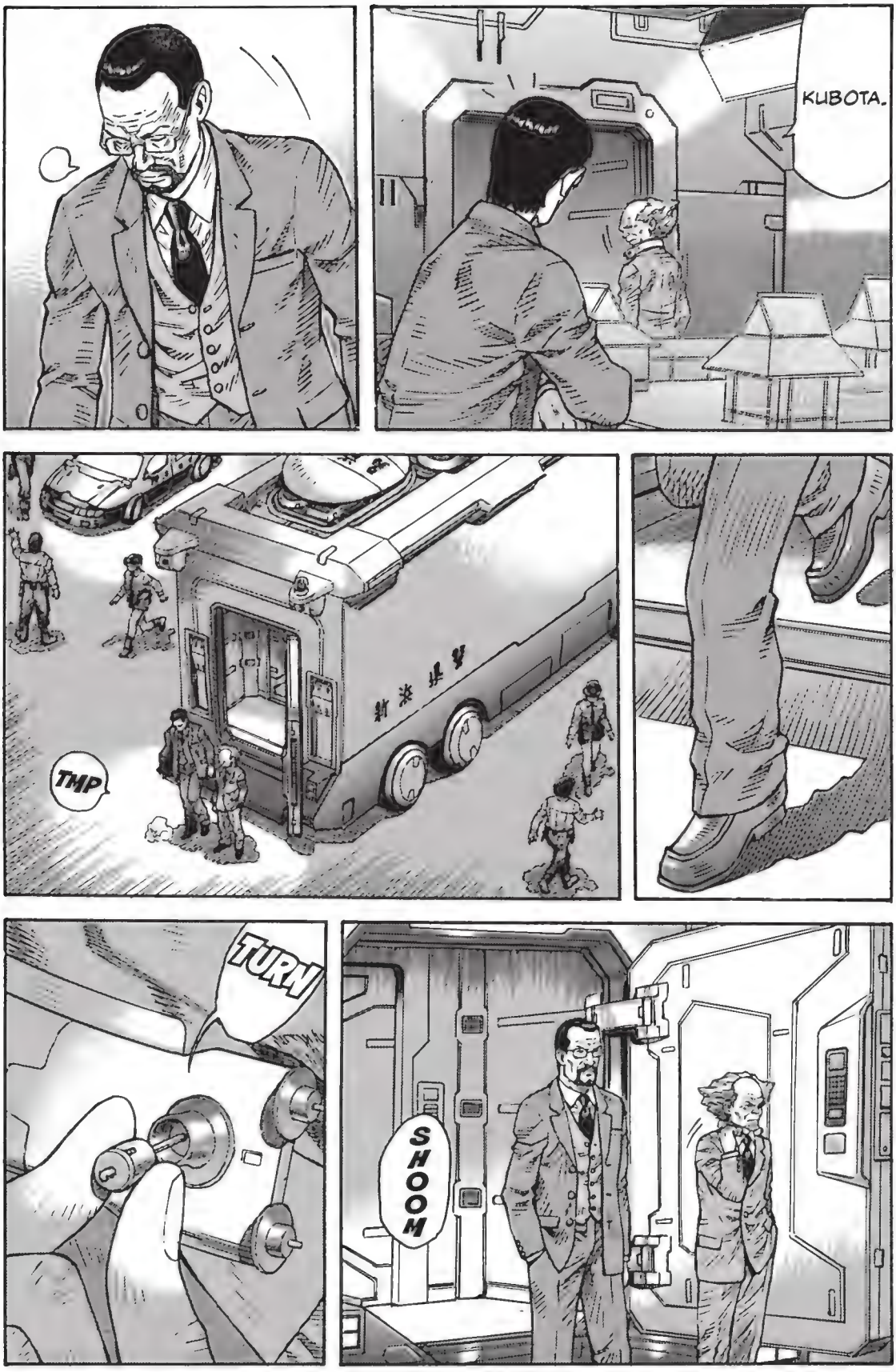
TCHHH...
KRSSHH...
...WITHOUT HEARING A GOOD REASON FIRST.
TAKATA
I CAN'T HAND OVER COMMAND...
TAKA
TAKA TAKA
TCHHH...
KRSSHH...
I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN! STOP BEING SO STUB-BORN...
THIS MATTER IS THE POLICE'S JURIS-DICTION!

LET US, THE MILITARY, HANDLE IT!
!!
THIS IS NO TIME...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S STUB-BORN!!
TMP
...FOR SUCH A PETTY SQUABBLE!
PU-
!
CLATTER


PUBLIC SECURITY SECTION 9 CHIEF DAISUKE ARAMAKI!
TAKA TAKA
CLATTER!
CLATTER
TAKA TAKA
...THIS HOSTAGE SITUA-TION!
THE MATTER AT HAND IS...


MINISTER'S SECRETARY
...THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HIS SECRETARY...
MINISTER
YES! WE BELIEVE THE HOSTAGES ARE...
CLATTER
...TWO MEN FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION ASSOCIATION AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTER'S SUPPORT ASSOCIATION.
NAIPA MEMBERS
DIRECTOR
17 MINUTES HAVE PASSED SINCE THE CYBER GEISHA TOOK THEM HOSTAGE.
...BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THE CURRENT SITUATION YET.
ACCORDING TO THE PROPRIETOR, WHO ESCAPED, THERE ARE TWO POSSIBLE CASUALTIES...

NOT AT THIS TIME.
HAS ANYONE CLAIMED RESPON-SIBILITY? BROUGHT ANY DEMANDS?
MILITARY, SIR!
COM-MUNICA-TIONS BLACK-OUT?
...BUT IT WON'T HOLD FOR MUCH LONGER.
WE IMPLE-MENTED CODE 14 NINE MINUTES AGO...
WHAT ABOUT THE PRESS?
TMP
RIGHT NOW SECTION 9 IS IN CHARGE.
WAIT FOR FURTHER ORDERS!


KUBOTA.
TMP
TURN
SHOOM

GRASP
SQUEEZE
CLICK
CAN'T SAY ANYTHING MORE NOW.
ONE OF OURS IS INSIDE.
WHY IS THE MILITARY INTERVENING?
GOT IT. WE'LL TALK LATER. LEAVE IT TO US.

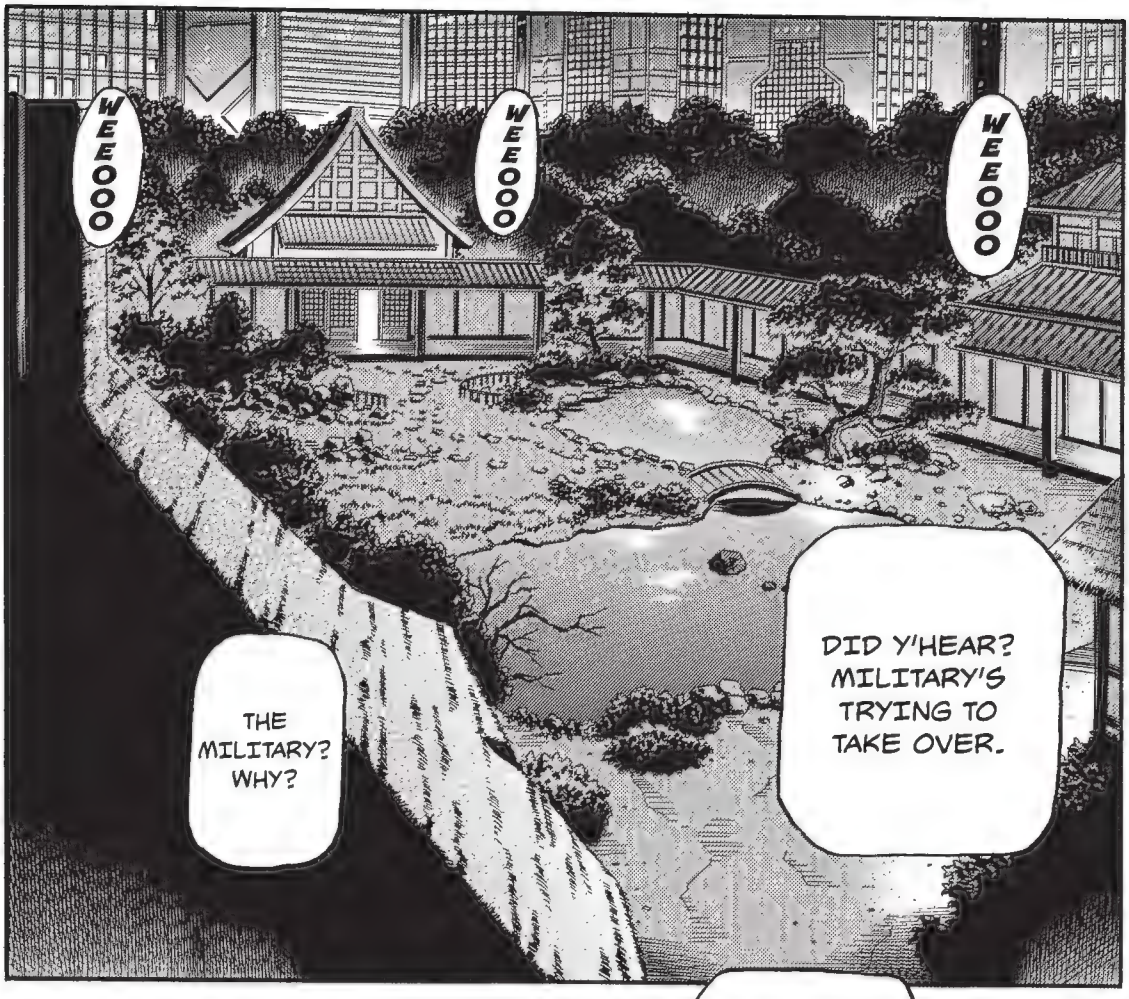
SHOOOM
TUCK
SHOOOOM
MAJOR... YOU IN?
BEEP
CLICK
NOT YET!
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

WE'VE GOT MILITARY INVOLVE-MENT. WATCH YOUR BACK!
CLICK
WHOOSH

THANKS FOR THE WARNING...

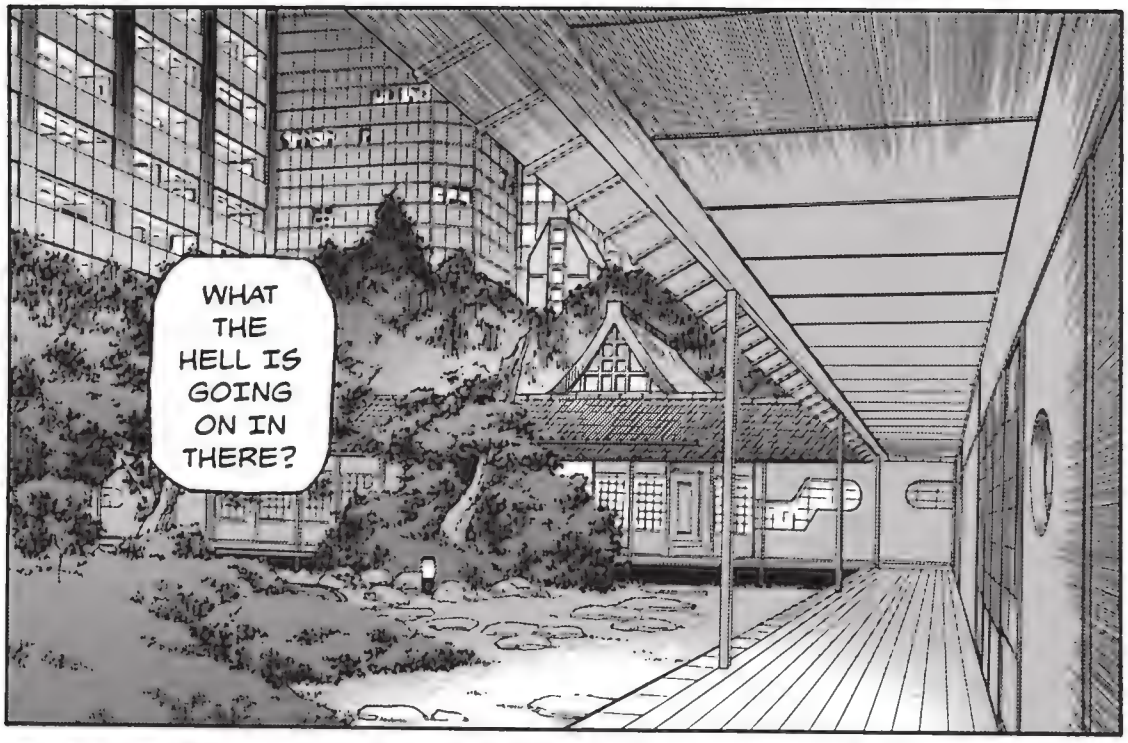
#001 / End

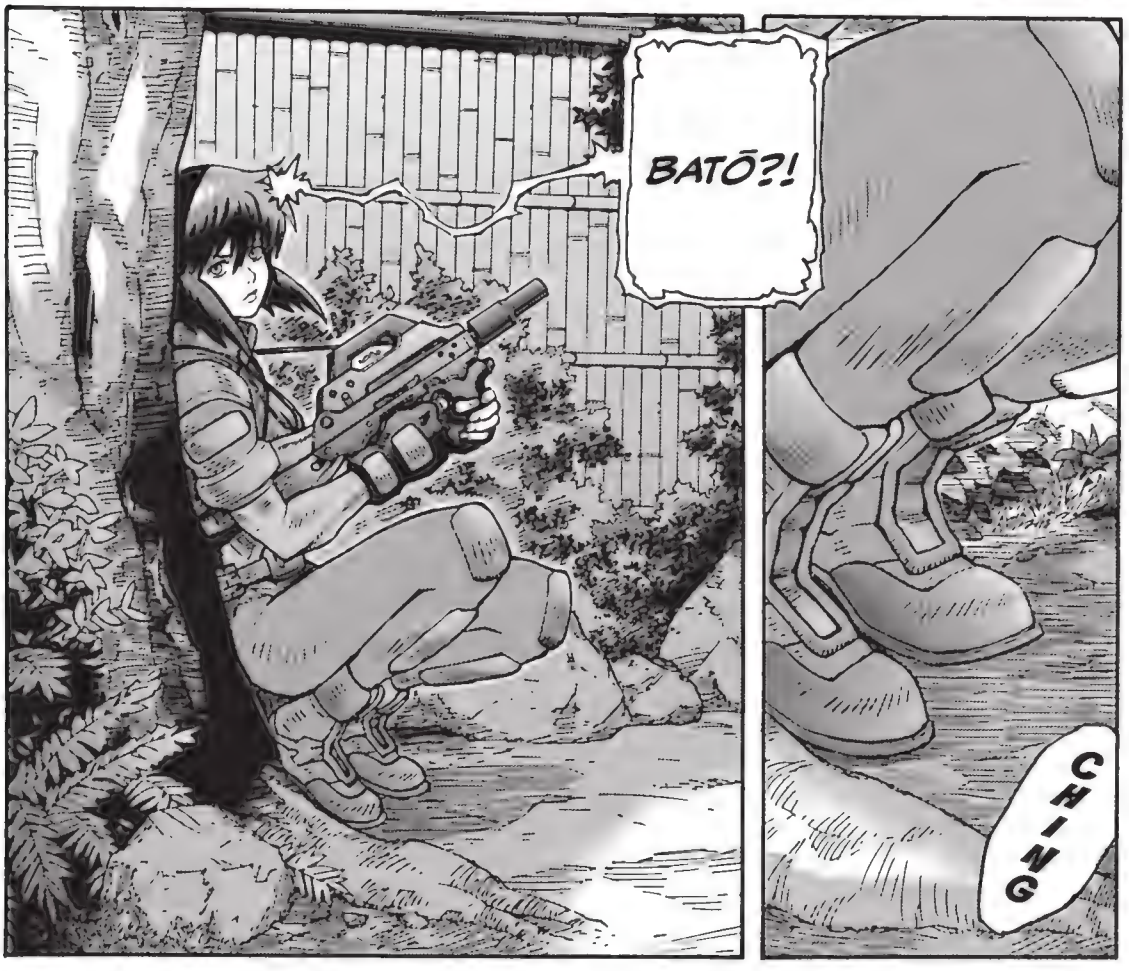
#002: Surrounded


WEEOOO
WEEOOO
WEEOOO
DID Y'HEAR? MILITARY'S TRYING TO TAKE OVER.
THE MILITARY? WHY?

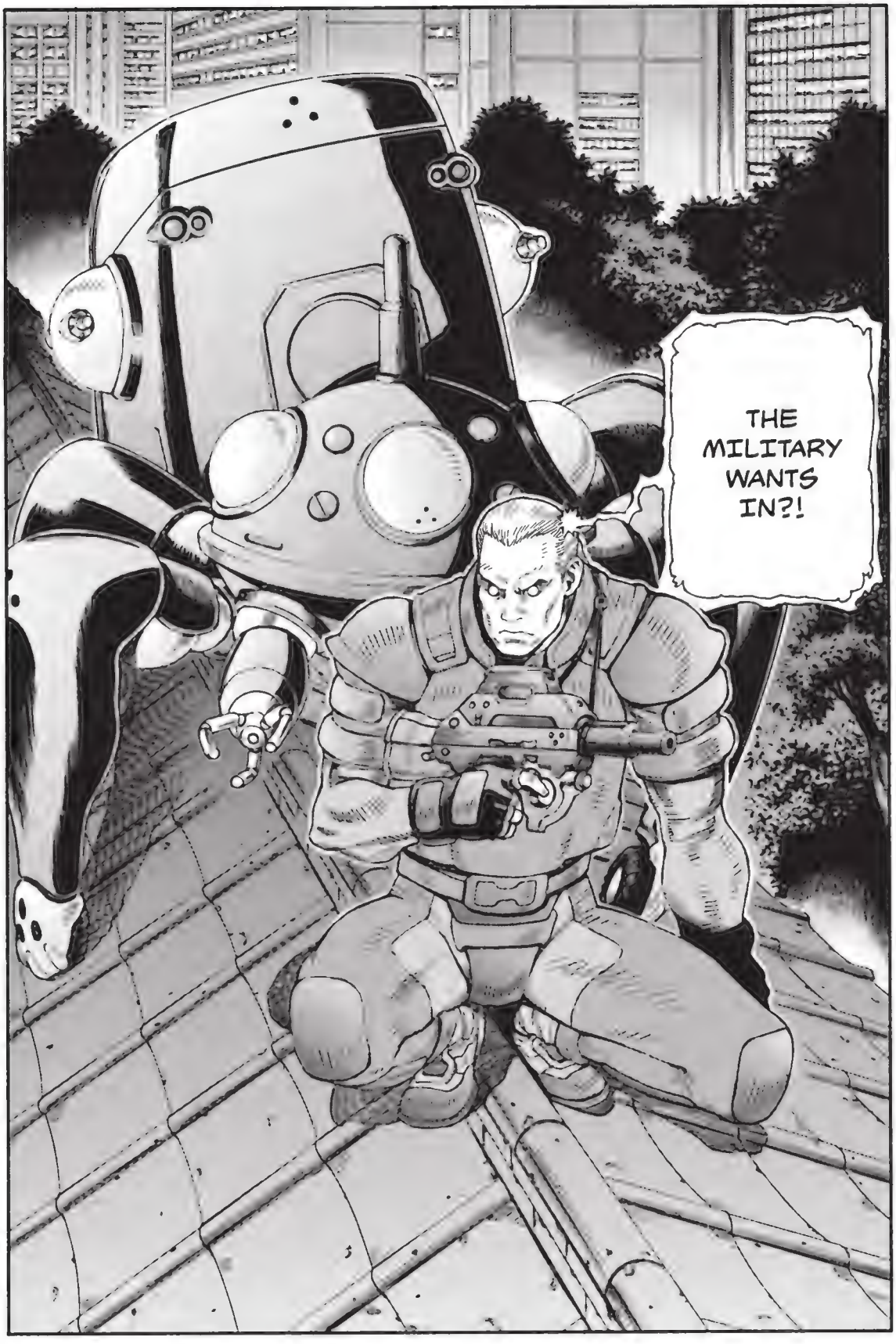
I HEARD ONE OF THE HOSTAGES IS THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
PUBLIC SECURITY SECTION 9... SPECIAL FORCES THAT REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER...

SECTION 9?!
NO CLUE. SECTION 9 STOPPED 'EM FOR NOW, THOUGH.
新浜

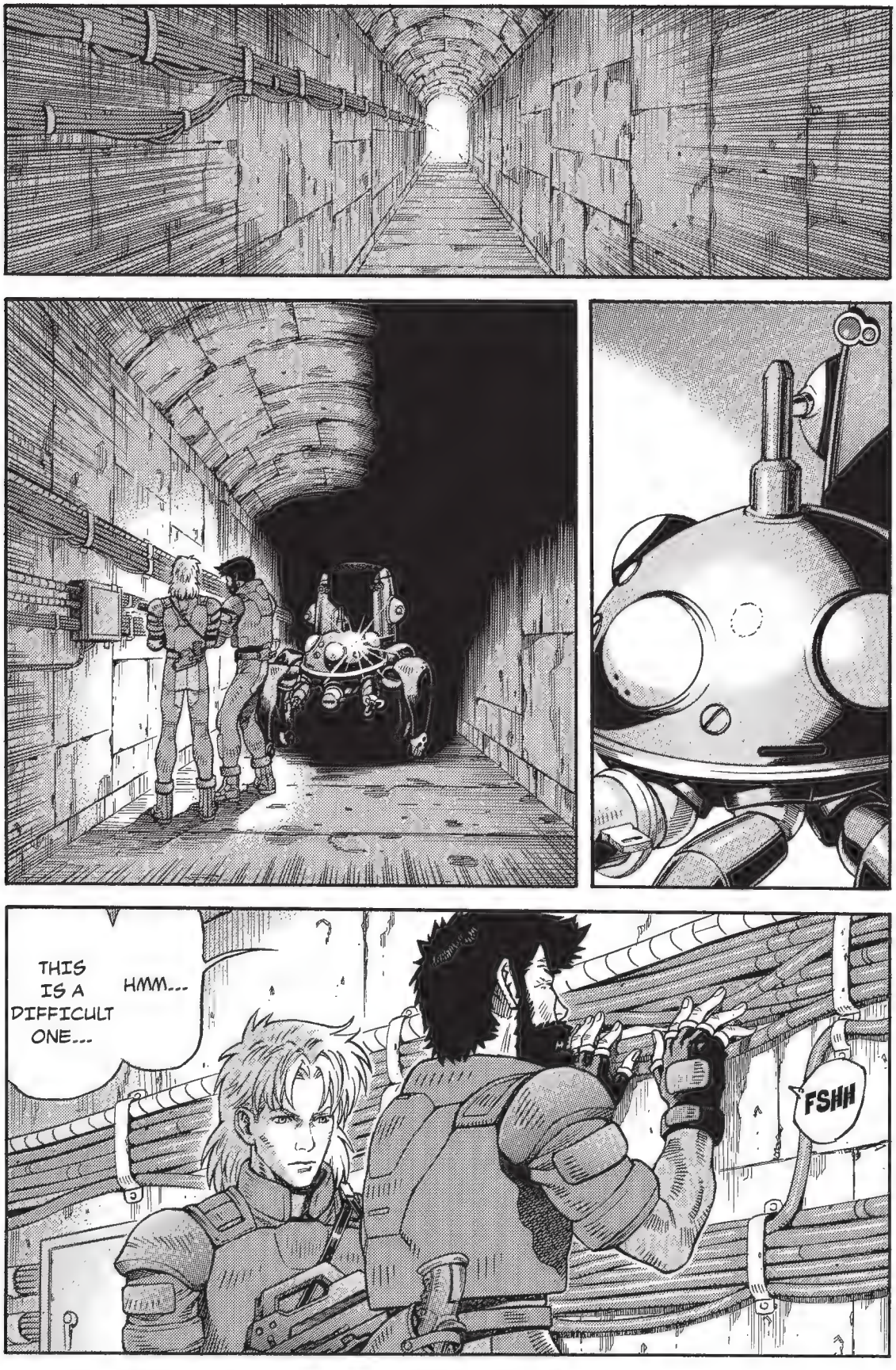

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON IN THERE?

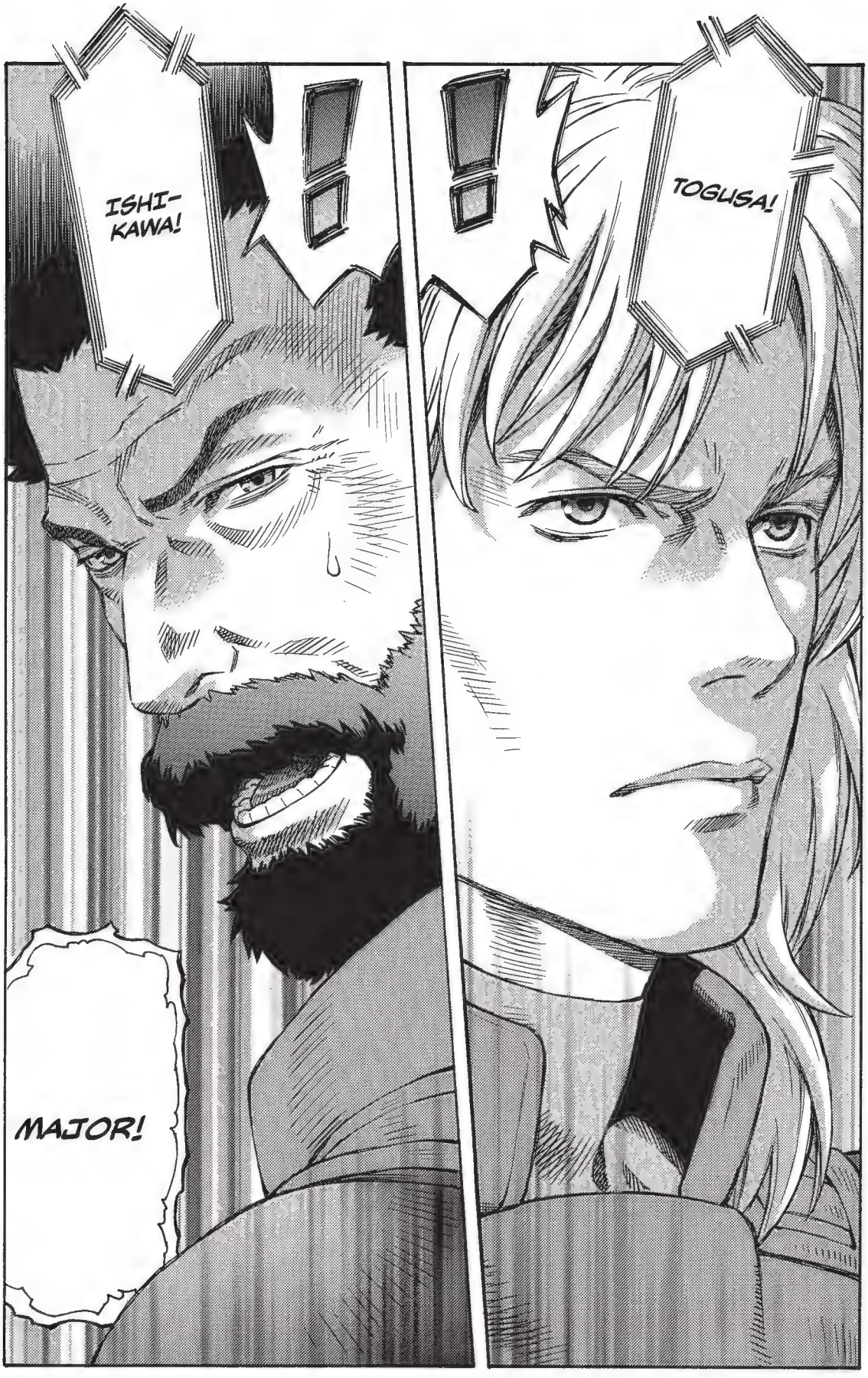

BATŌ?!
CHING

WHAT'S GOING ON, BATŌ?
HANG ON, MAJOR. STILL ON THE MOVE.
WHAT?!
KRSSH


THE MILITARY WANTS IN?!

THAT EXPLAINS THE NOISE I HEARD WHEN I WAS LISTENING IN ON THE SNIPER TEAM.
FIRST PRIORITY IS SAVING THE HOSTAGES. KILL THE ROBOTS IF YOU HAVE TO!
THE CYBER GEISHA HAVE BARRICADED THEMSELVES INSIDE WITH THE HOSTAGES.
TOGUSA'S ON HIS WAY.
YOU WAIT HERE FOR ORDERS!
TACHI-KOMA...
ROGER.
TCH.
KRSSH
I'LL BE FINE.
BE CARE-FUL, BATŌ-SAN! ♪


THIS IS A DIFFICULT ONE...
HMM...
FSHH


ISHI-
KAWA!
!
TOGUSA!
!
MAJOR!

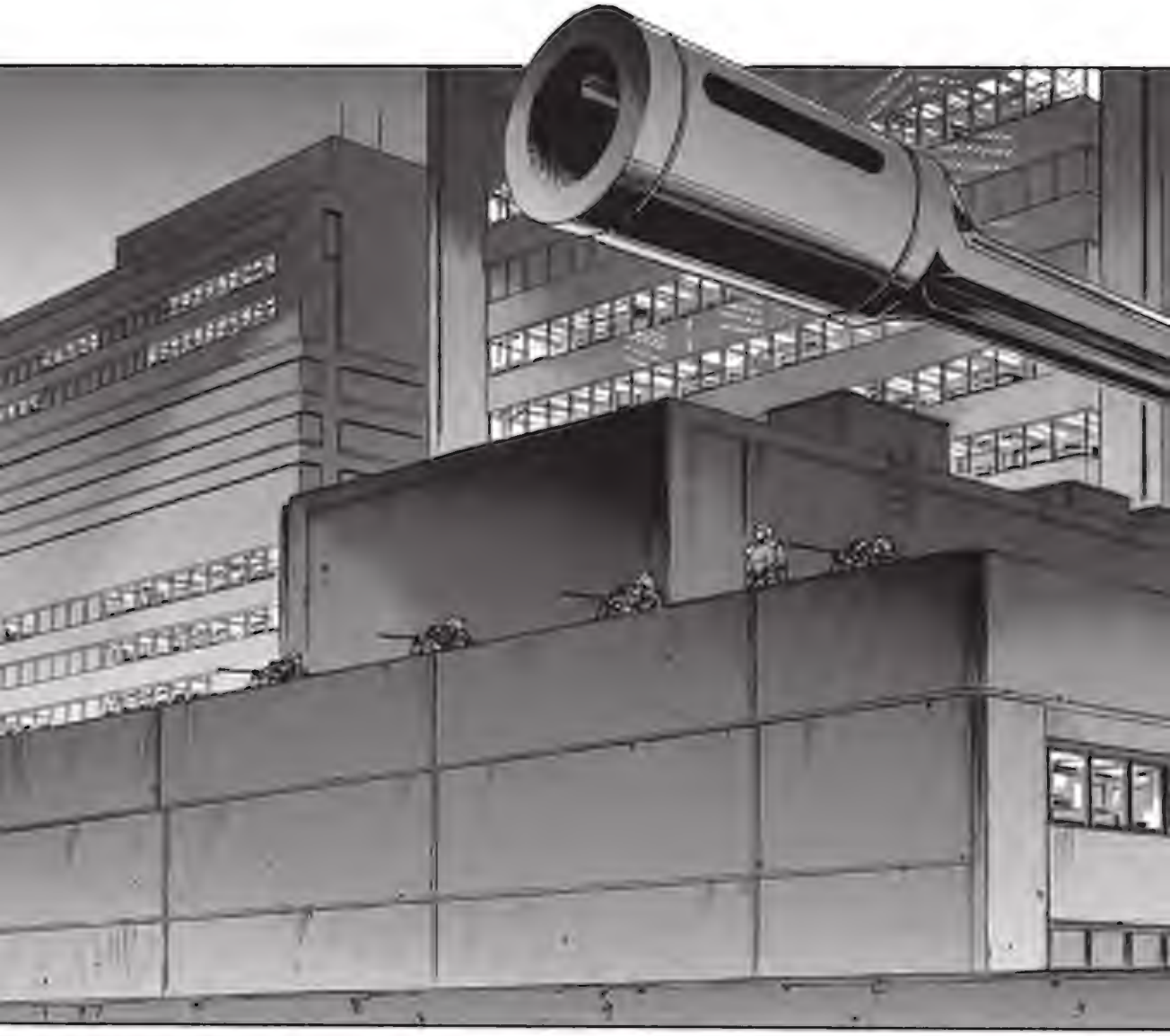
MAJOR, THERE ARE TOO MANY CIRCUIT CABLES!!
IT'LL TAKE ME TWO HOURS TO FIND THE SUSPECT'S LINE!
CHING
TOGUSA!
TMP

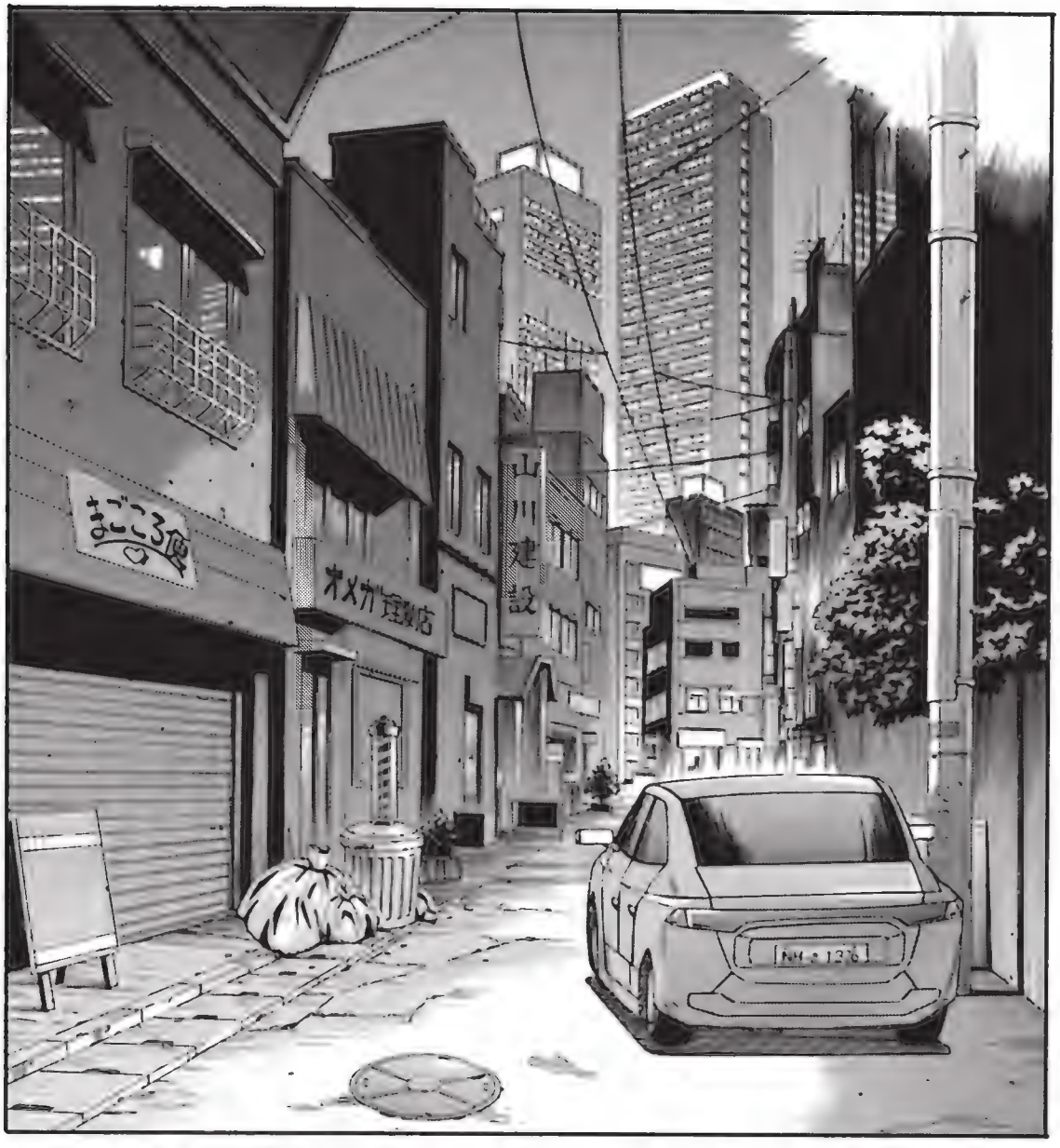
YOU, ME, AND BATŌ ARE GOING IN!
MEET UP IN THE COURTYARD AND GET READY!
GOOD LUCK!
ROGER!
HMM...
POOF
SHOOM

TMP

SHOOM
KRRSSHH
SAITŌ!
TMP

YAMATO
洋服の
大和
THIS IS SAITÔ. I'VE NEUTRALIZED THE IMAGE CURTAINS... BUT ALL THOSE TREES ARE LIMITING MY SIGHT LINE.




まごころ食
オメガ理髪店
山川建設

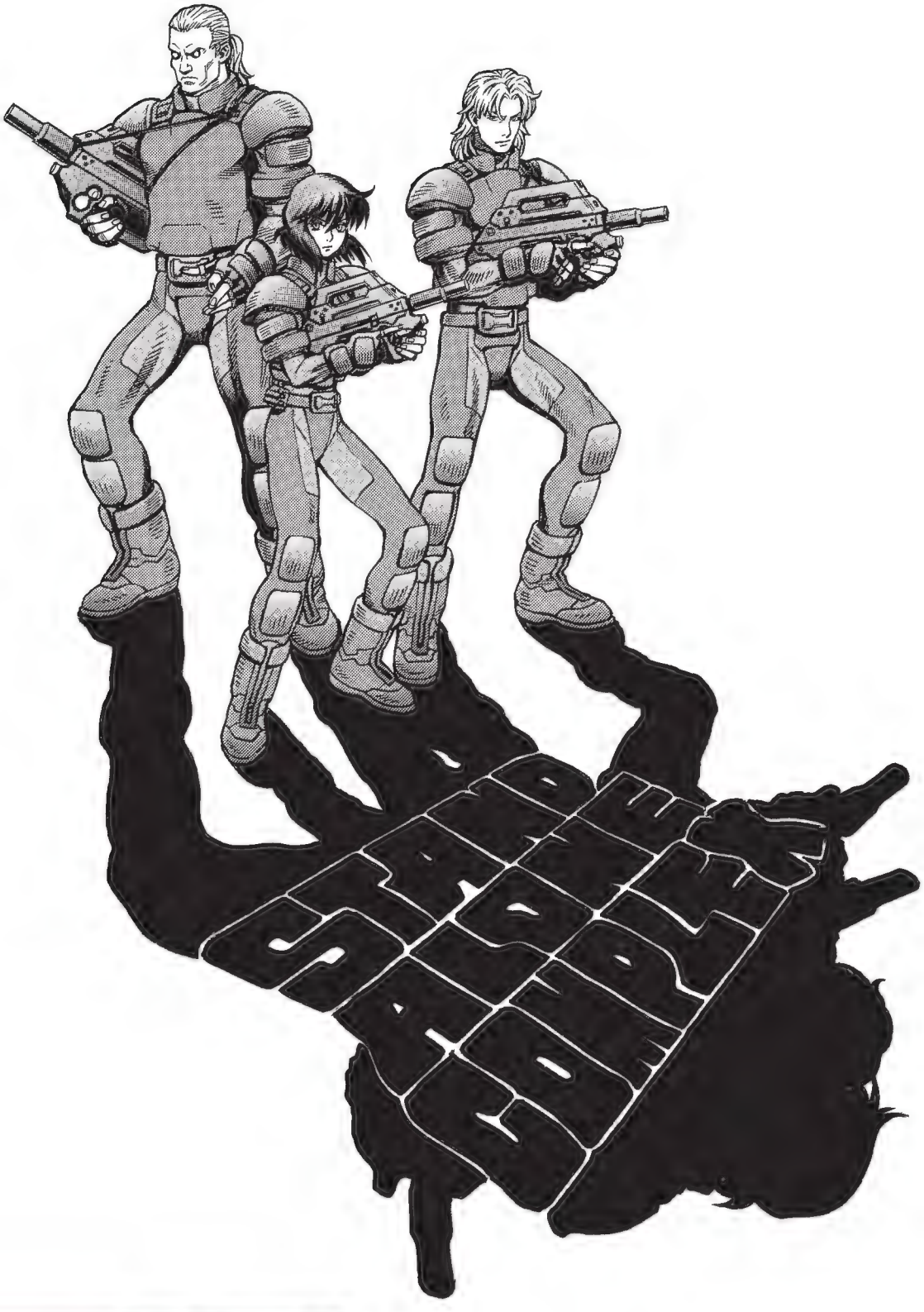
PAZ!
BORMA!

CLICK
READY WHEN YOU ARE.
I'LL SEND THE VIRUS BEFORE THE ENEMY CAN DESTROY THE EVIDENCE!
KRSSHH
DON'T SHOOT THE TRANS-MITTER.
WHO-EVER'S CONTROLL-ING THE ROBOTS SHOULD BE NEARBY.

EVERY-ONE...
SAVE THE HOSTAGES FIRST.
STOP JOK-ING!
MAJOR! WHAT IF THE CYBER GEISHA ASK FOR TIPS?
KRSSH
CHIEF ARAMAKI! STANDING BY!!
MOVE IN!

GO!
DASH

#002 / End



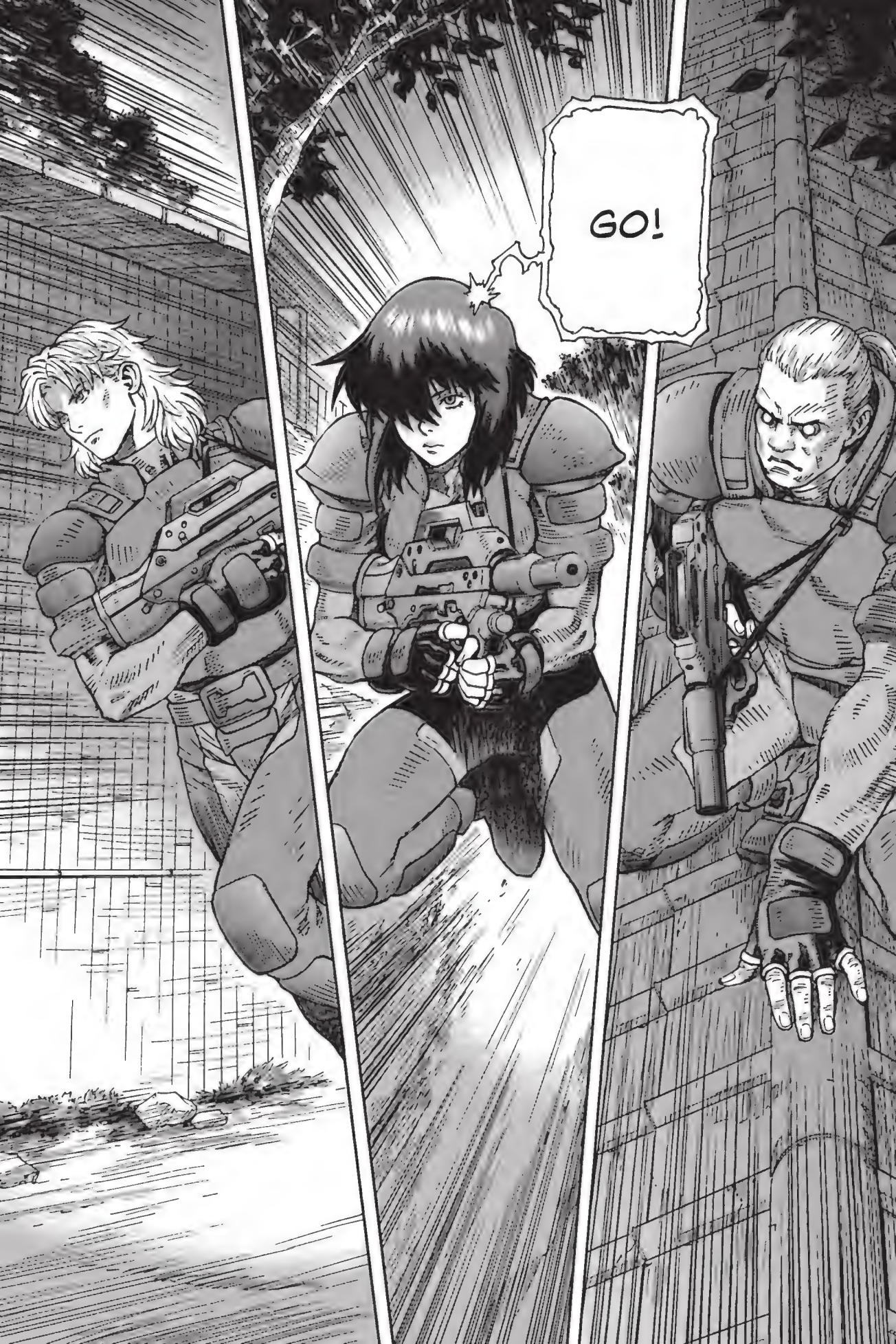
#003: Move In

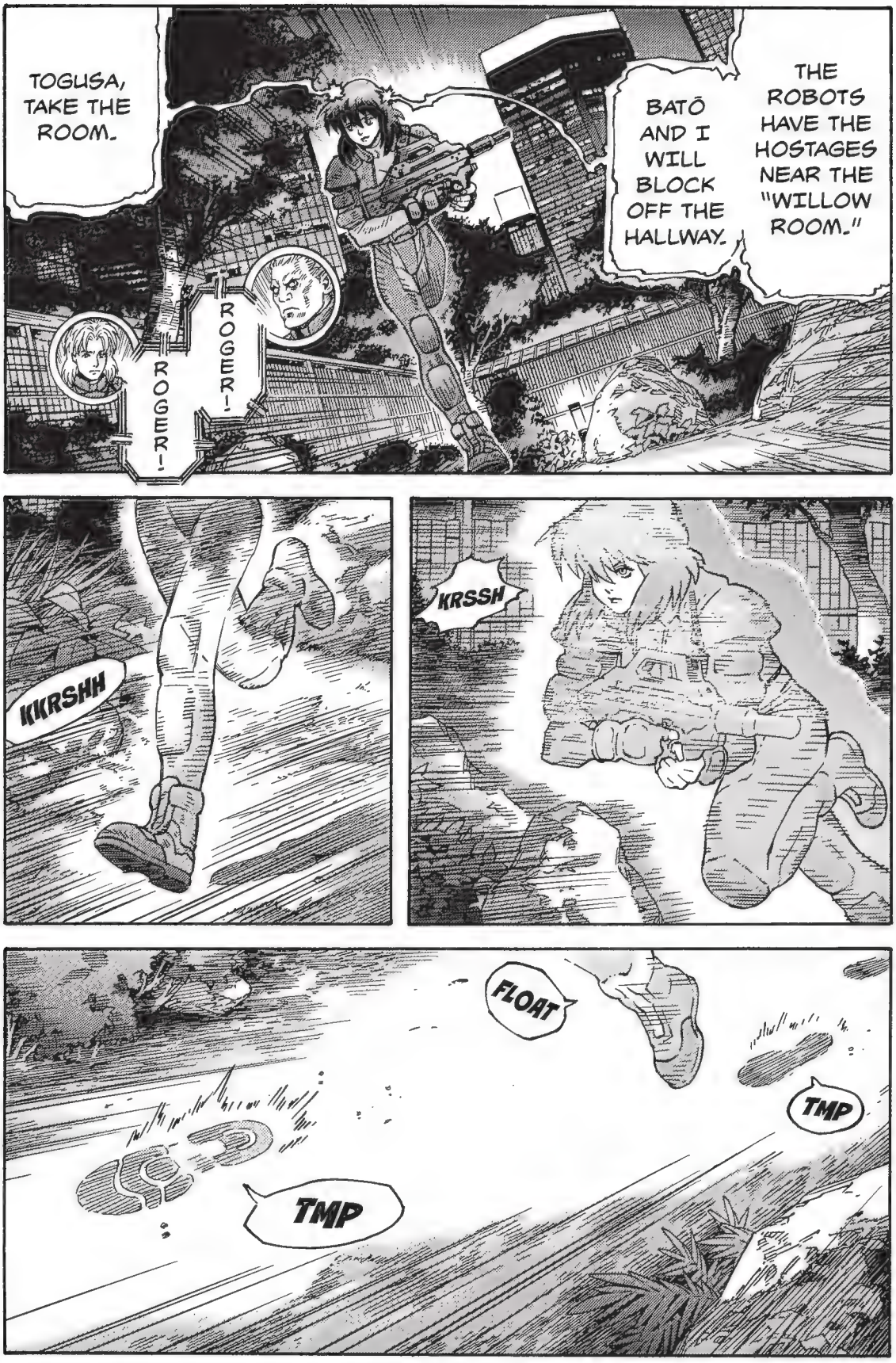
WEEOOO
WEEOOO
WEEOOO
MISSION INITIATED.
FIRST OBJECTIVE: SAVE THE HOSTAGES.
MYSELF...
BATÔ...
...AND TOGUSA...
TMP
...WILL USE OPTIC CAMOUFLAGE AND ENTER THE PREMISES FROM THREE SIDES.
CRAWL

YAMATO
洋服の
EVERYONE, GET IN POSITION!

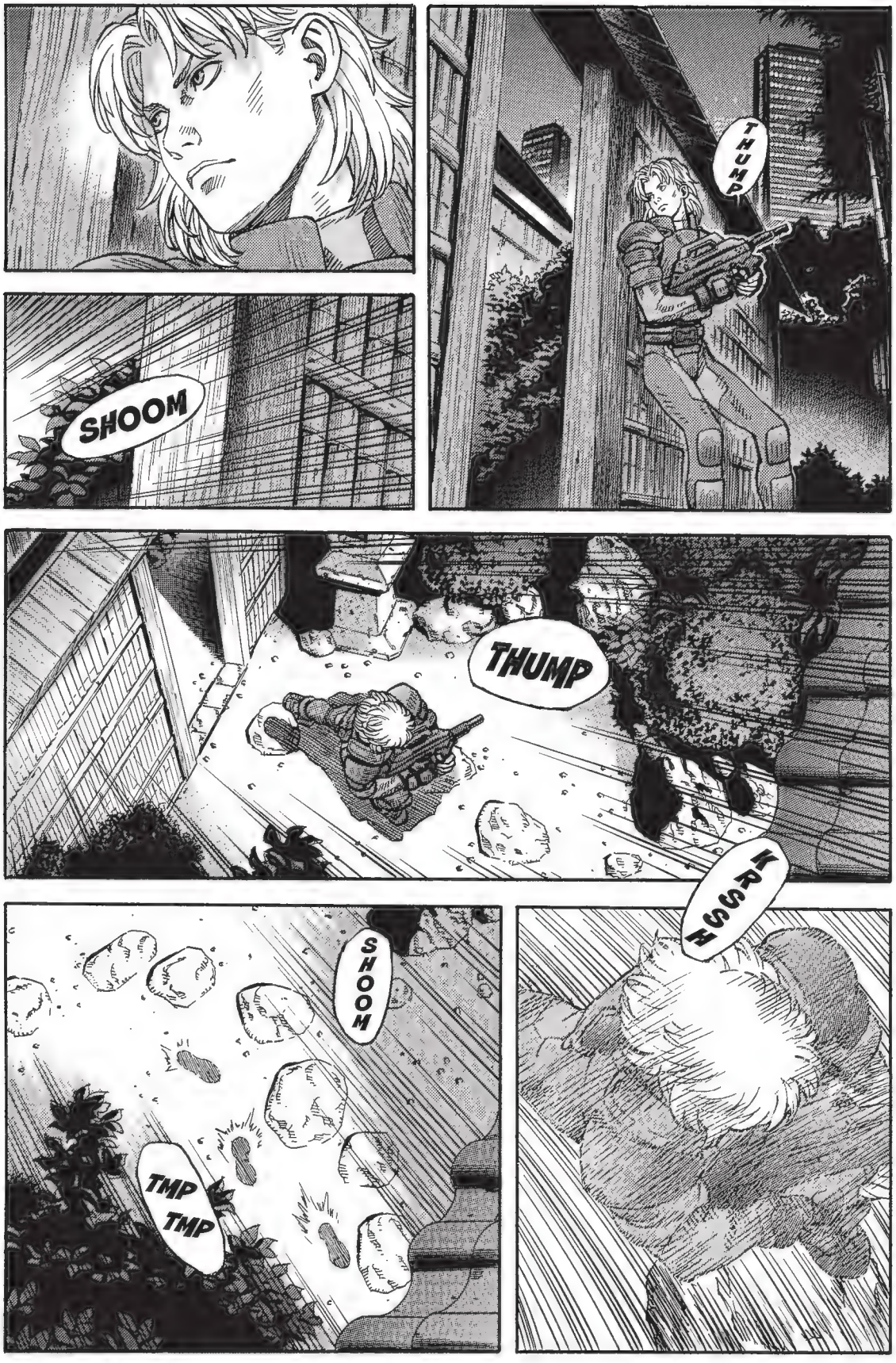
MOVE IN!

STANDING BY!

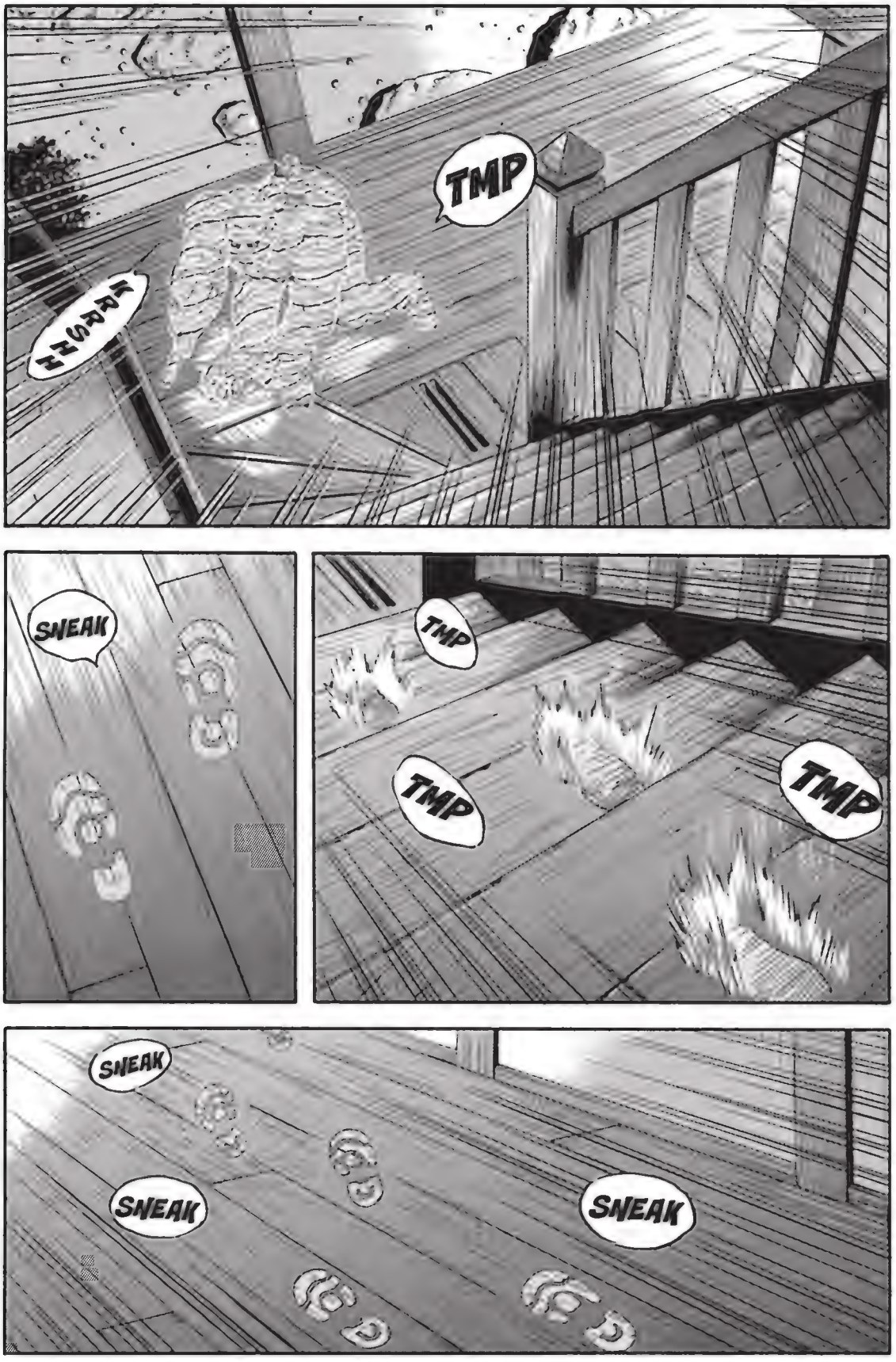

GO!


TOGUSA, TAKE THE ROOM.
ROGER!
ROGER!
BATŌ AND I WILL BLOCK OFF THE HALLWAY.
THE ROBOTS HAVE THE HOSTAGES NEAR THE "WILLOW ROOM."
KKRSHH
KRSSH
FLOAT
TMP
TMP

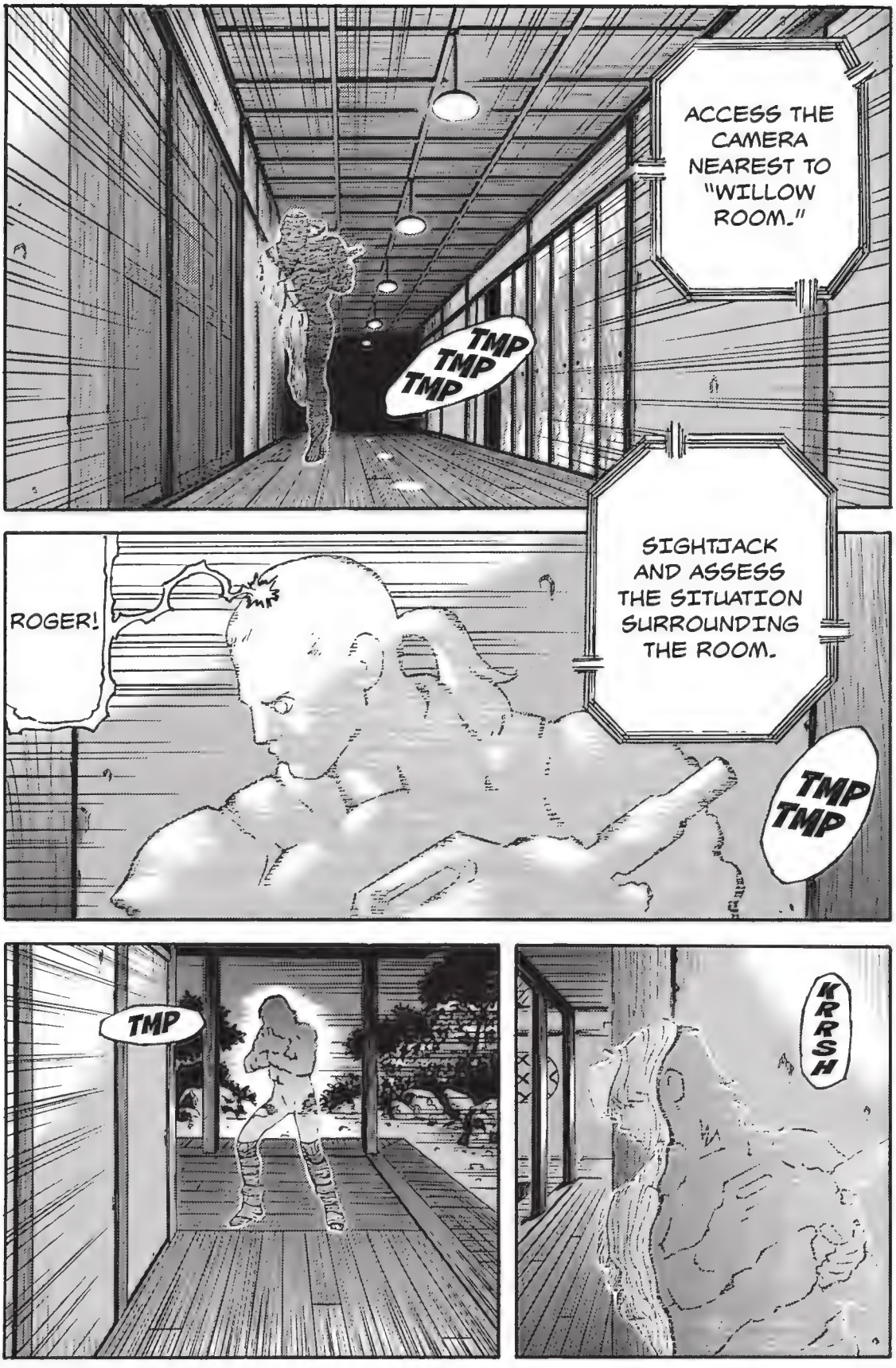
TMPTMPTMP
SHOOM
FLUTTER
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP TMP

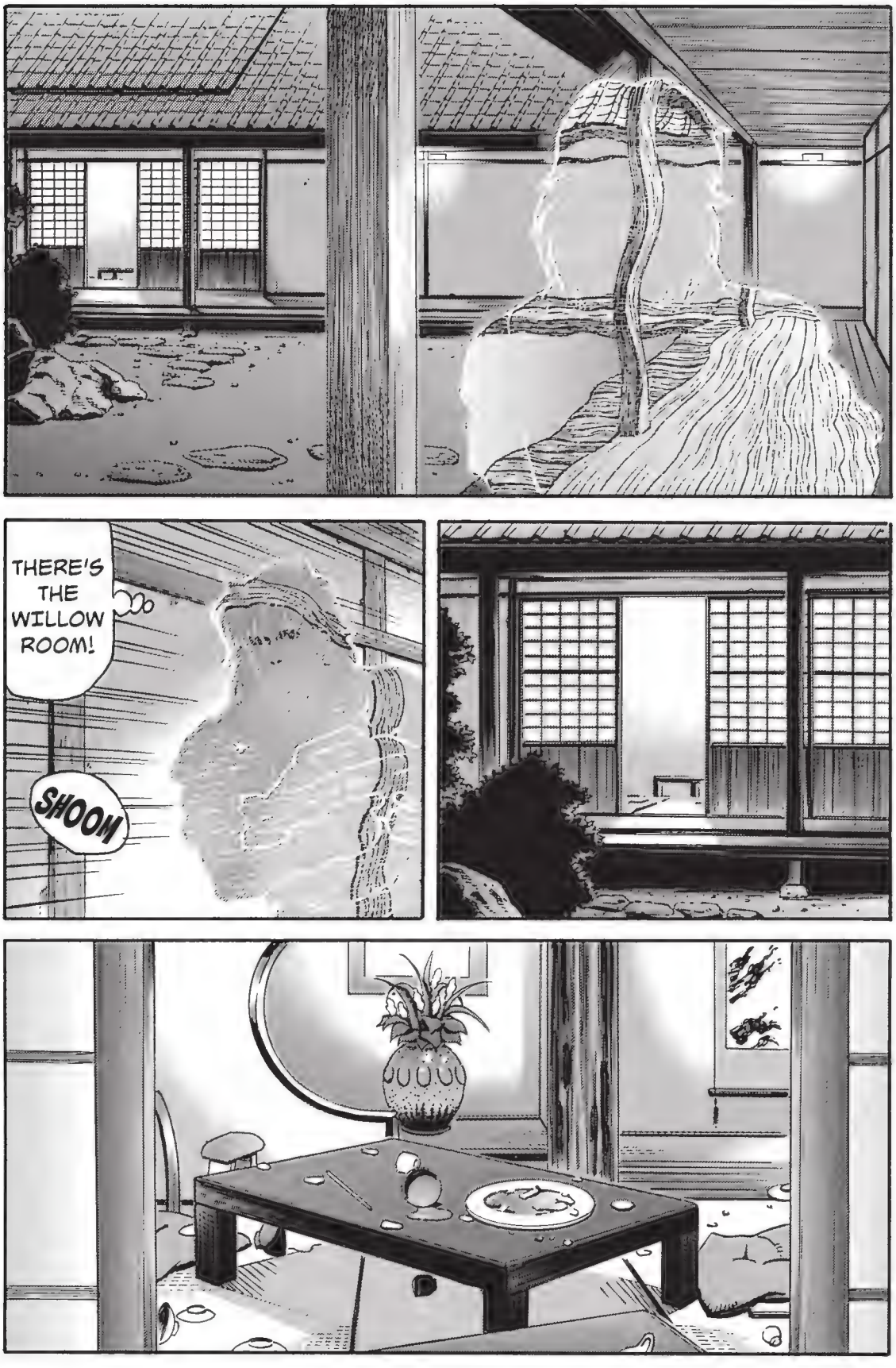

THUMP
SHOOM
THUMP
KRSSH
SHOOM
TMP
TMP

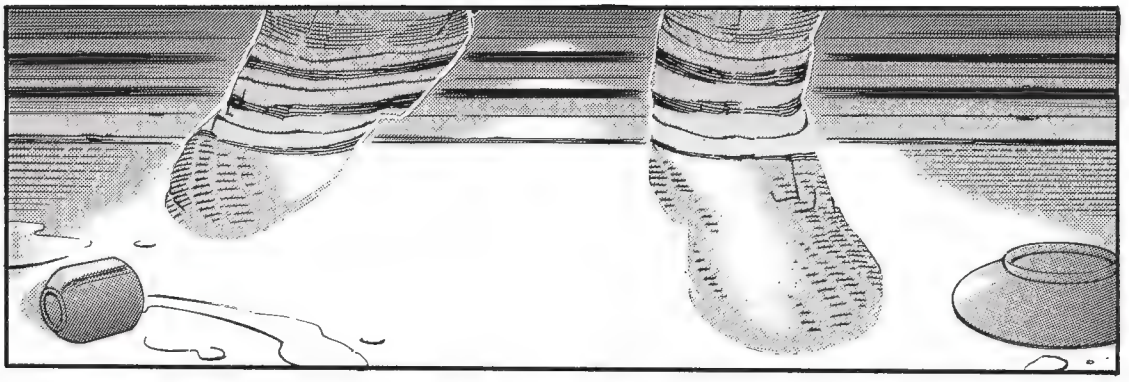
PEEK
HEH.
THUMP
OOF
CRAWL
KRSSH
THP
TH!

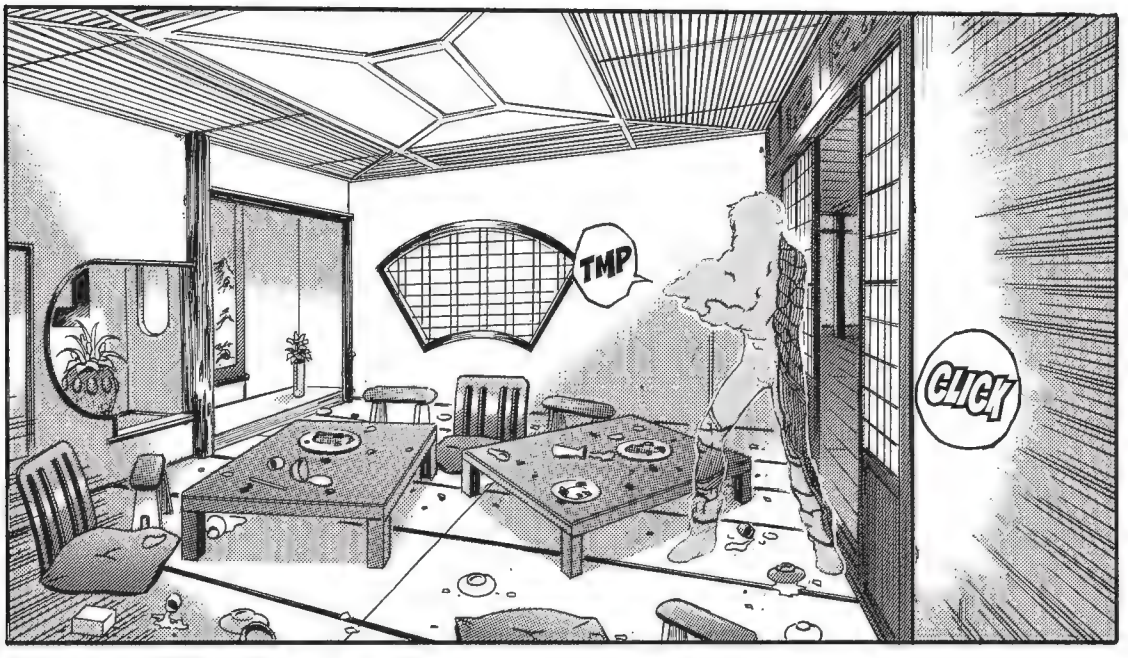

TMP
SNEAK
SNEAK
TMP
TMP
TMP
SNEAK
SNEAK
SNEAK

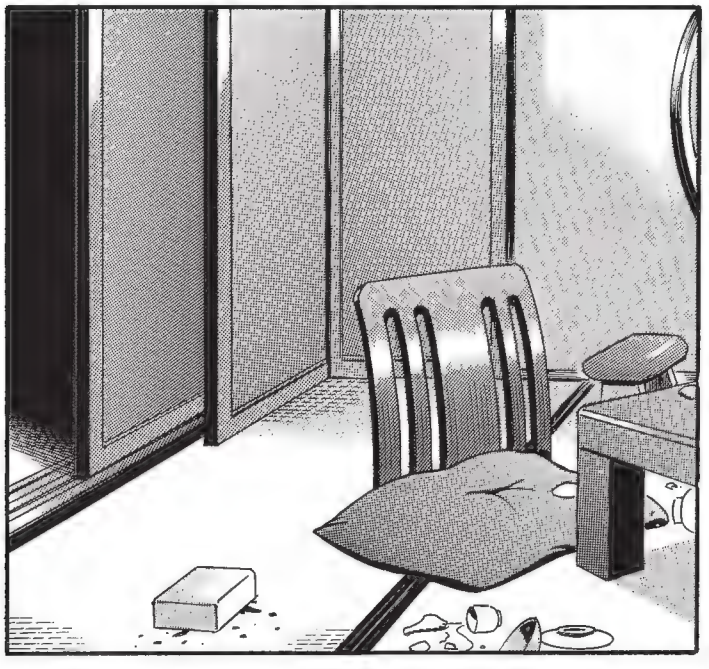
TMP
VRRRR
VRRR
STEP
BATŌ!

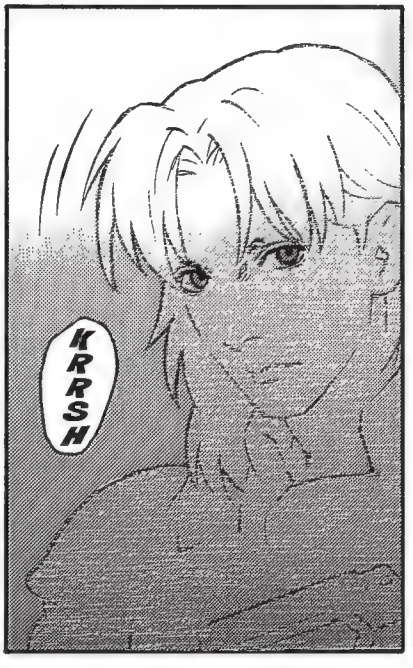

ACCESS THE CAMERA NEAREST TO "WILLOW ROOM."
TMP TMP TMP
ROGER!
SIGHTJACK AND ASSESS THE SITUATION SURROUNDING THE ROOM.
TMP TMP
TMP
KRRSH


THERE'S THE WILLOW ROOM!
SHOOM

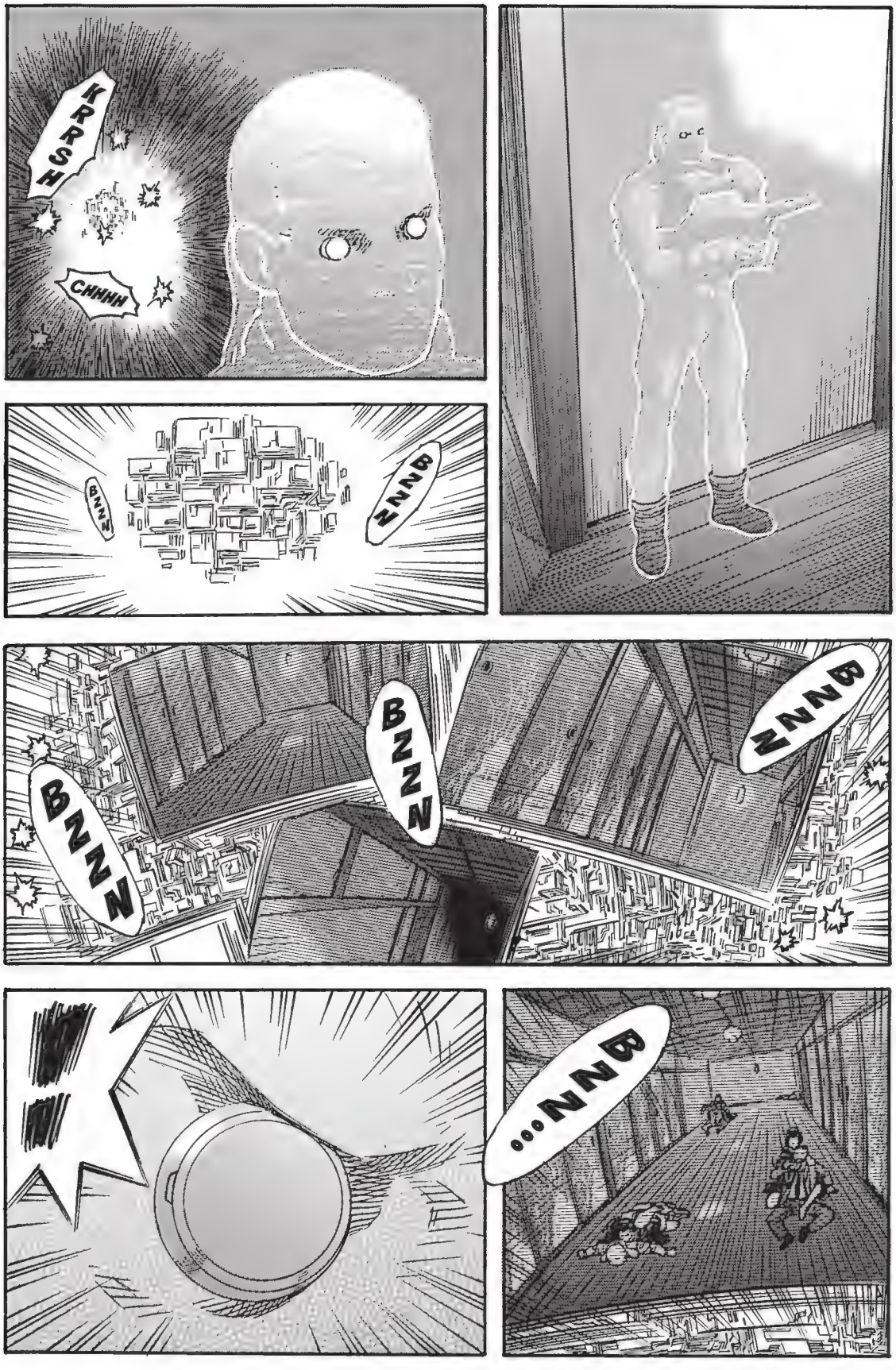


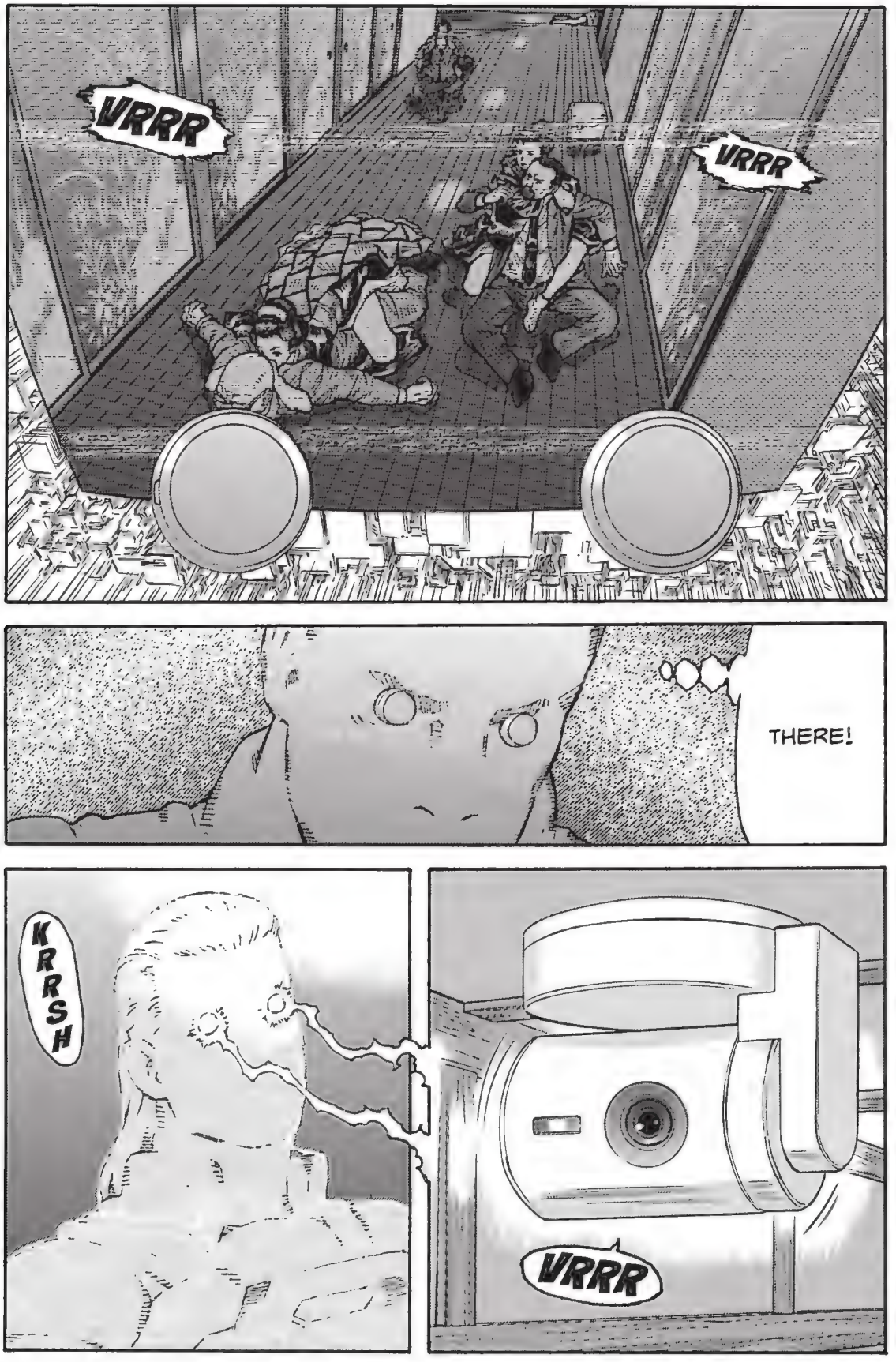

TMP
CLICK



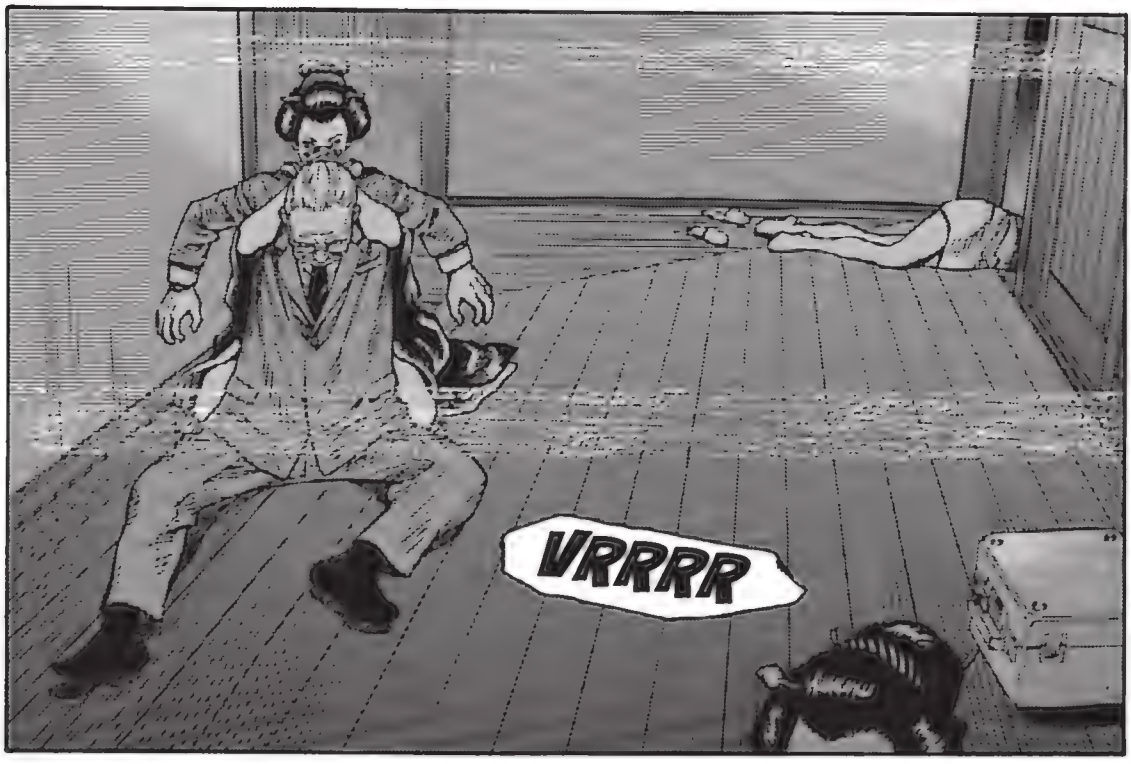

KRRSH

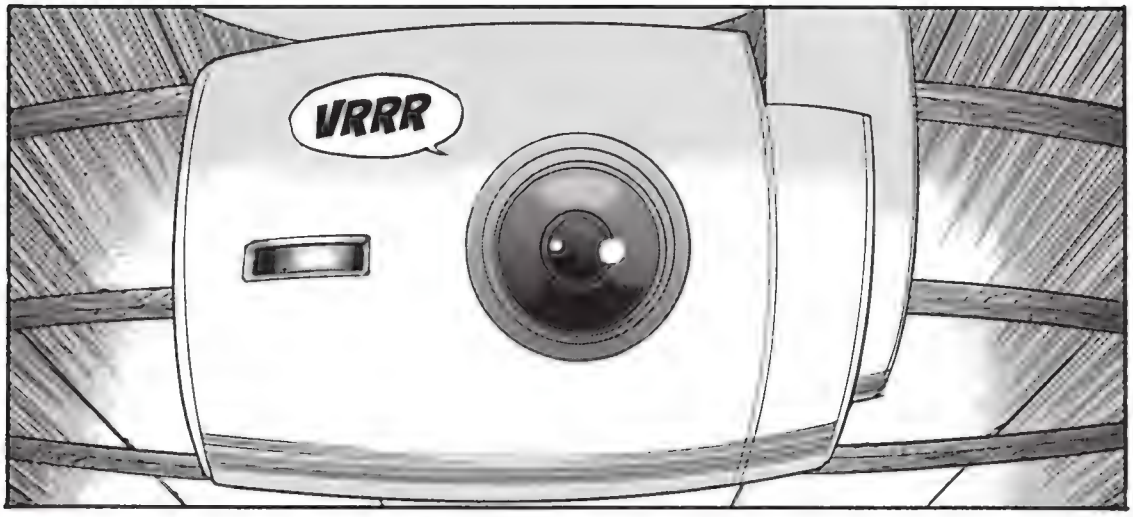
!!
TMP
I'M OKAY... SHE DIDN'T SPOT ME.
DID SHE SEE ME? NO...

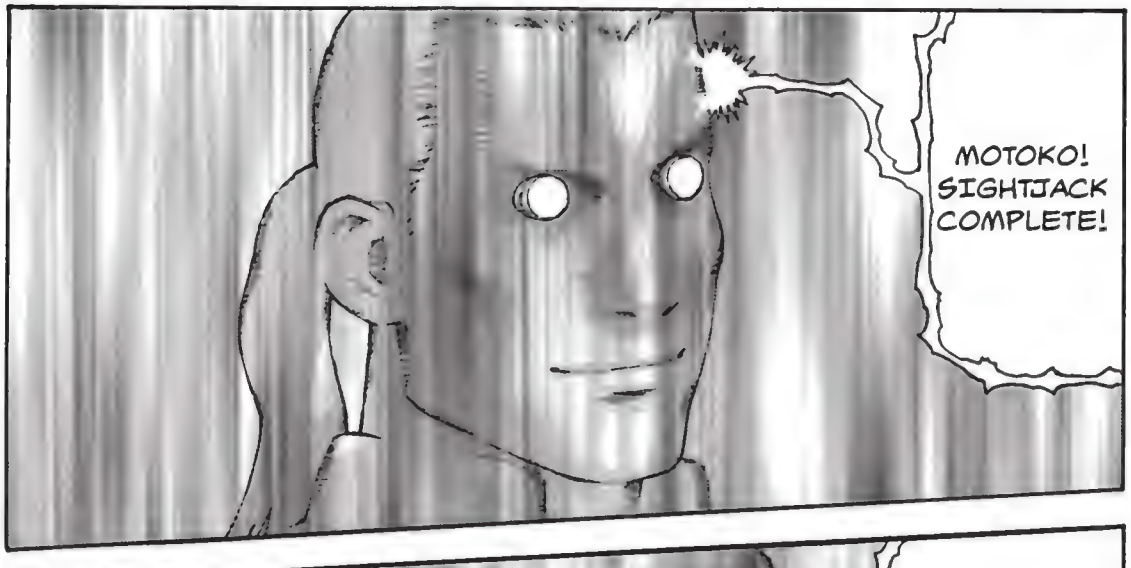

KRRSH
CHHHH
BZZN
BZZN
BZZN
BZZN
BZZN
...NNB

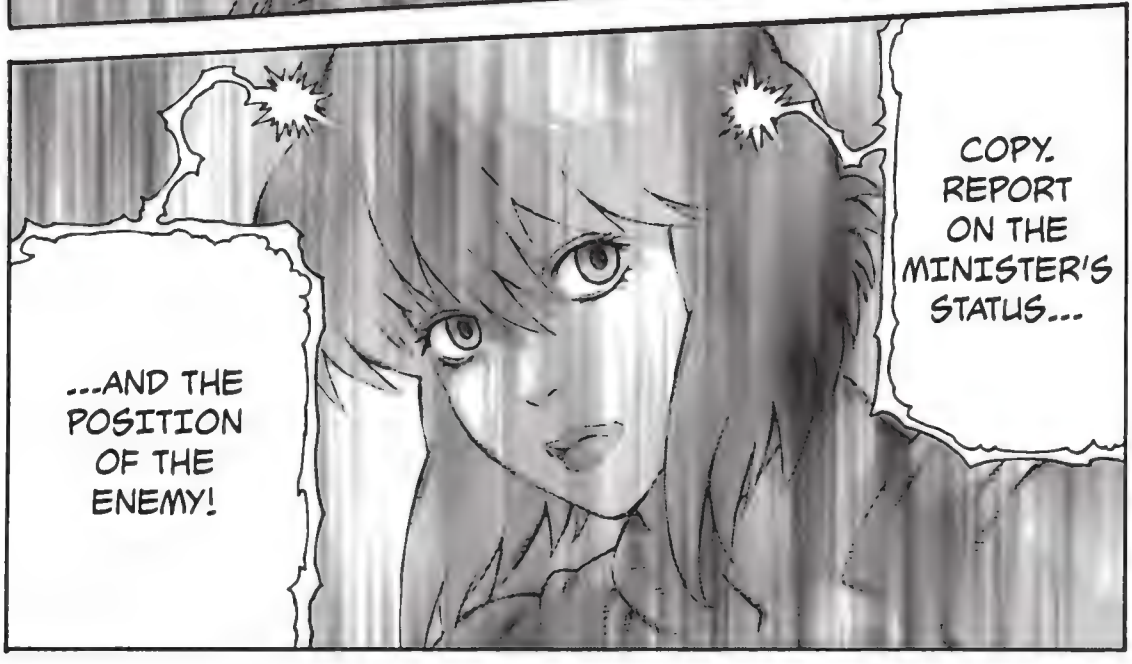

VRRR
VRRR
THERE!
KRRSH
VRRR

VRRRR


VRRRR

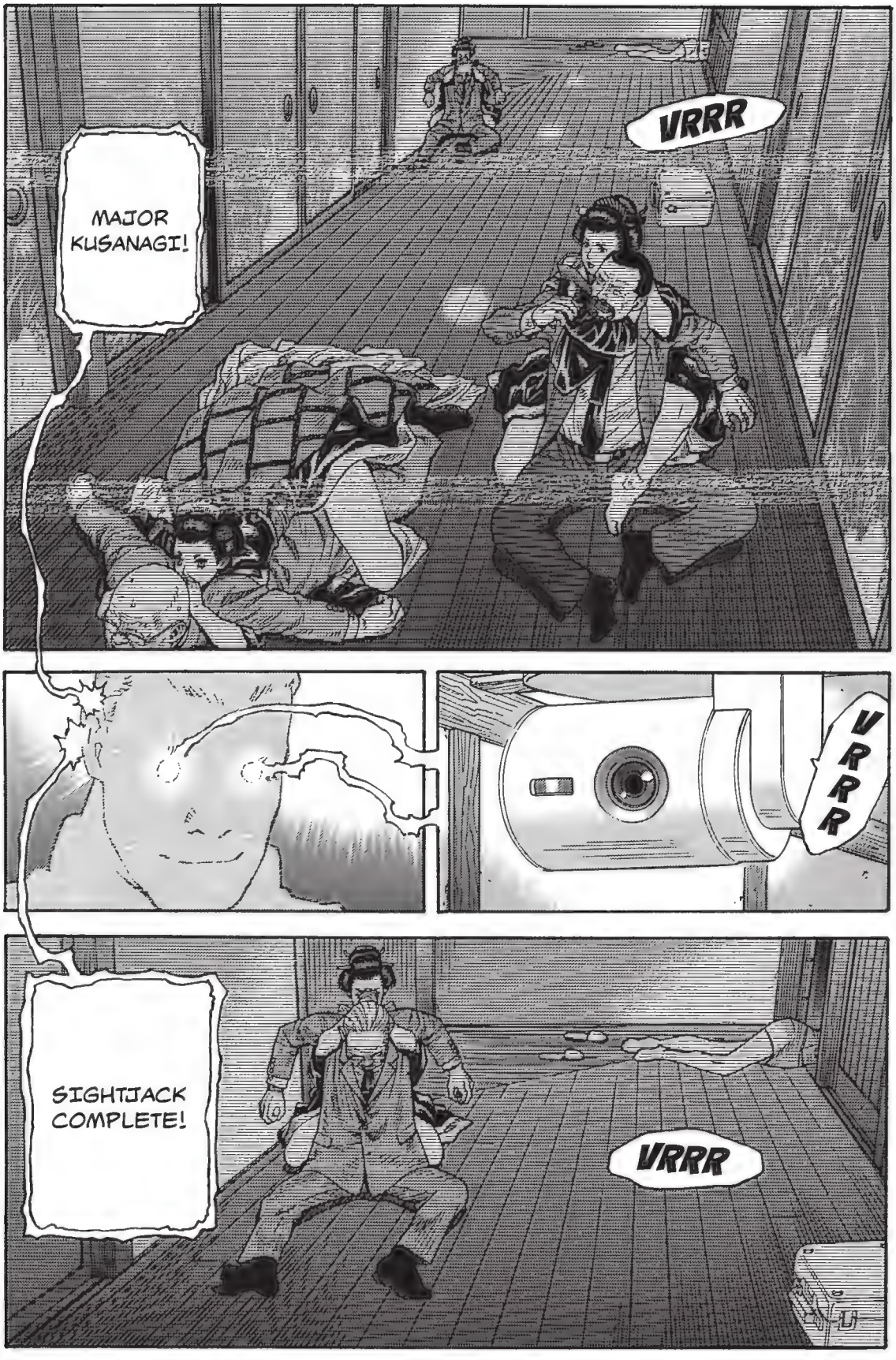

VRRR


MOTOKO! SIGHTJACK COMPLETE!

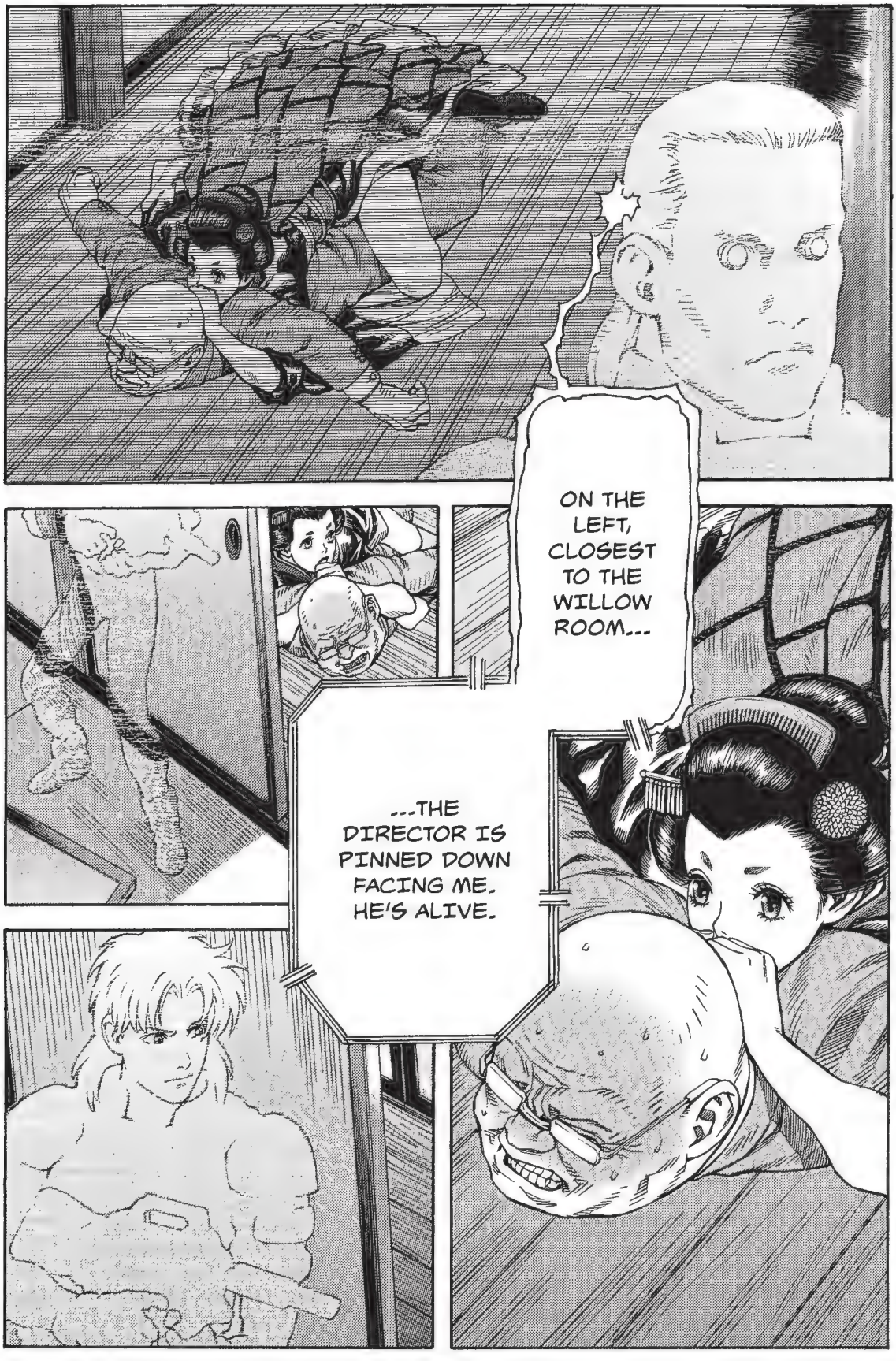

COPY. REPORT ON THE MINISTER'S STATUS...
...AND THE POSITION OF THE ENEMY!

#003 / End

#004: Launching Attack

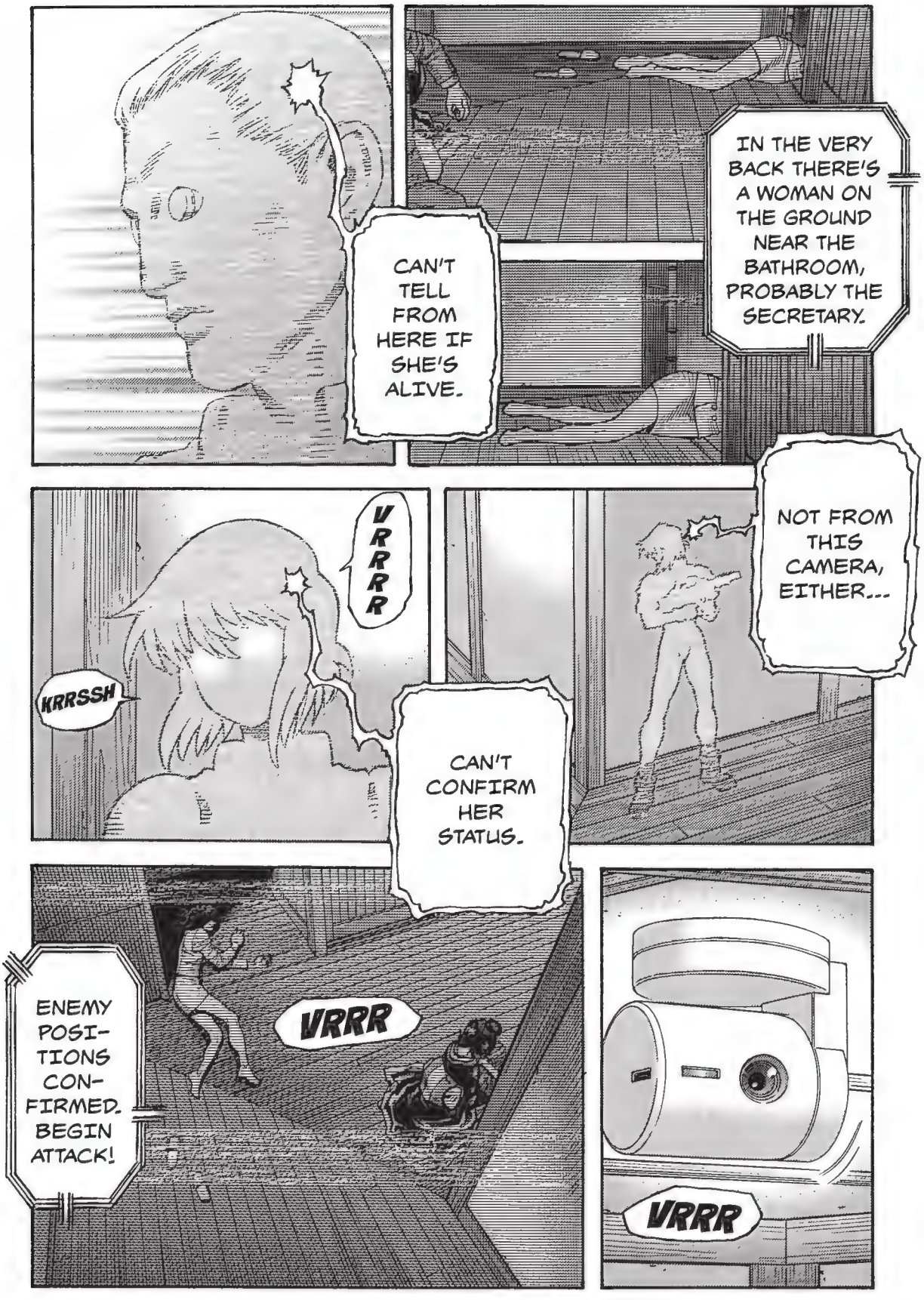

MAJOR KUSANAGI!
VRRR
VRRRR
SIGHTJACK COMPLETE!
VRRR

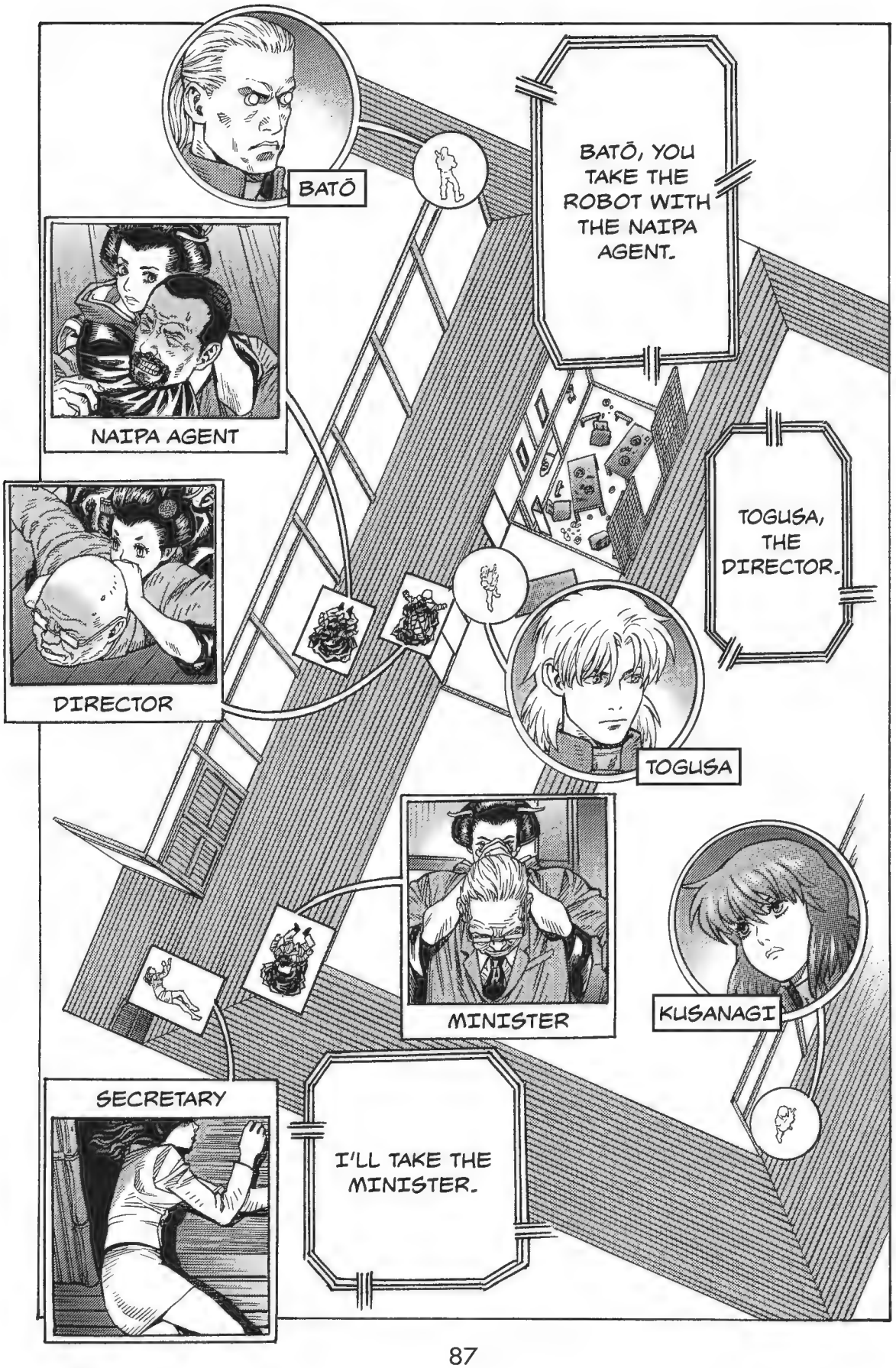
COPY!
VRRRR
REPORT ON THE MINISTER'S STATUS...
...AND THE POSITION OF THE ENEMY!

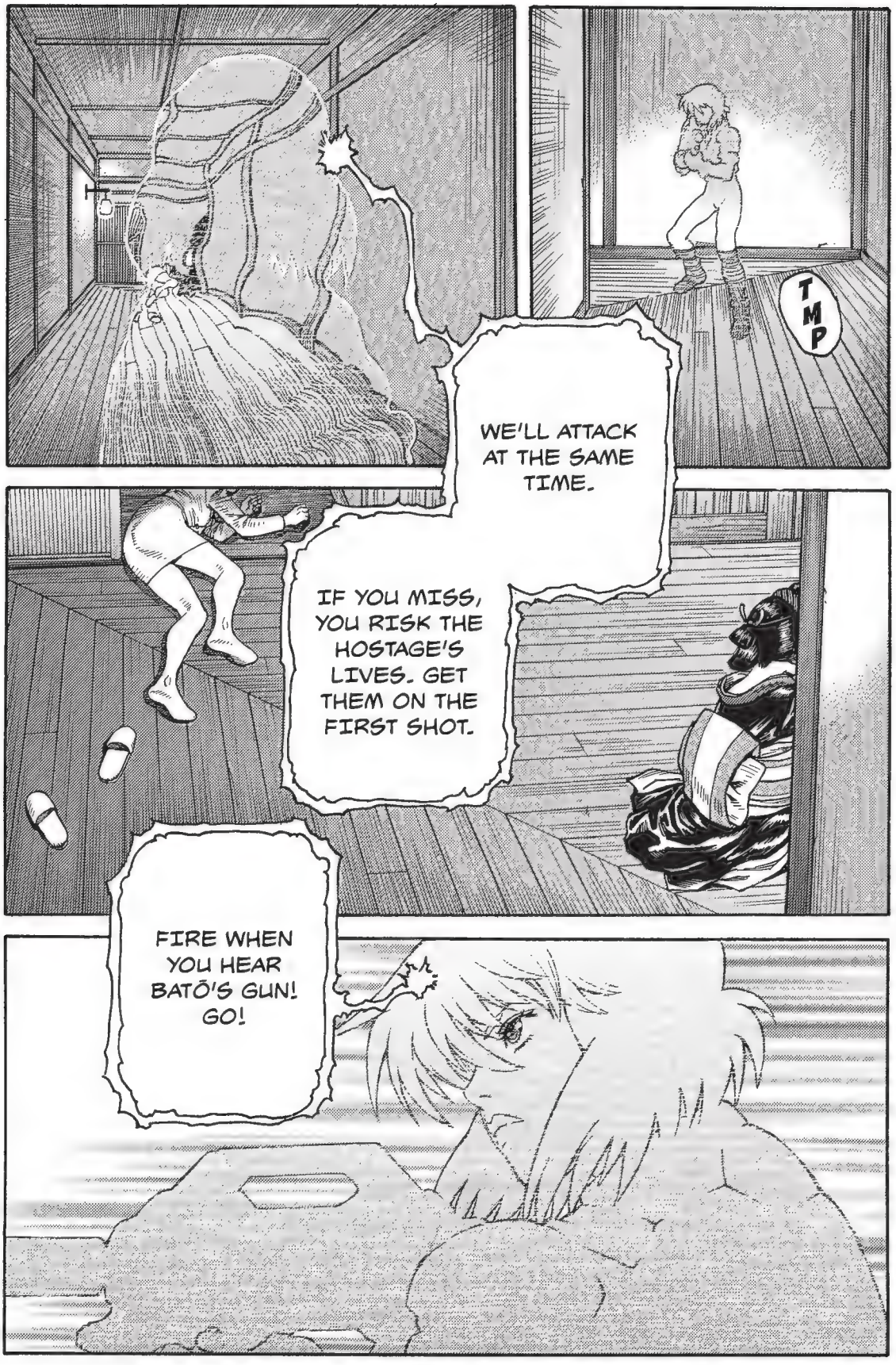

ON THE LEFT, CLOSEST TO THE WILLOW ROOM...
...THE DIRECTOR IS PINNED DOWN FACING ME. HE'S ALIVE.

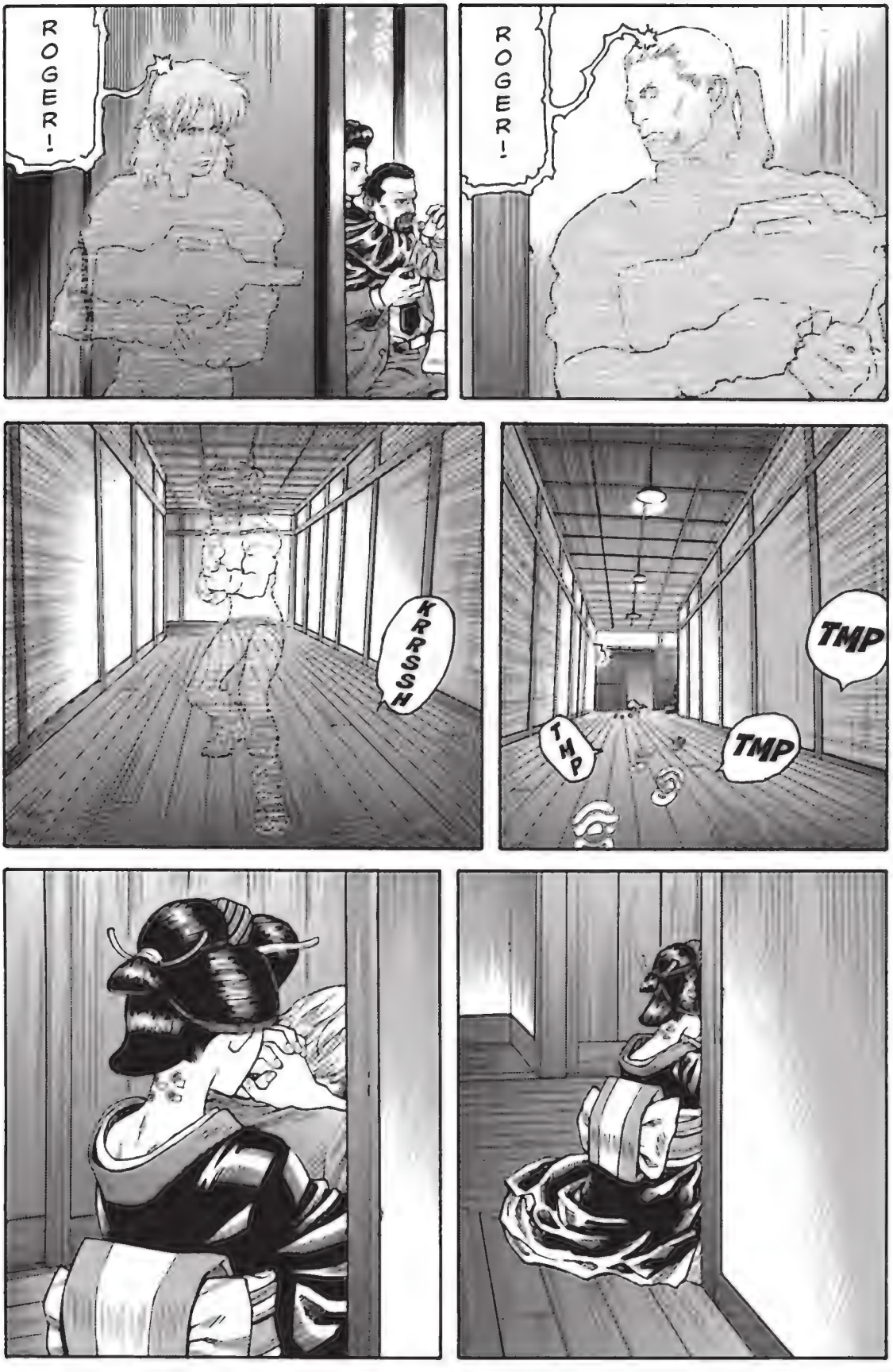
VRRRR
TO THE RIGHT, A LITTLE BEHIND HIM...
HE'S ALIVE, TOO.
ONE OF THE NAIPA MEN IS BEING HELD FROM BEHIND. HE'S SITTING UP.
VRRRR
THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE TO THE LEFT BY THE WALL...

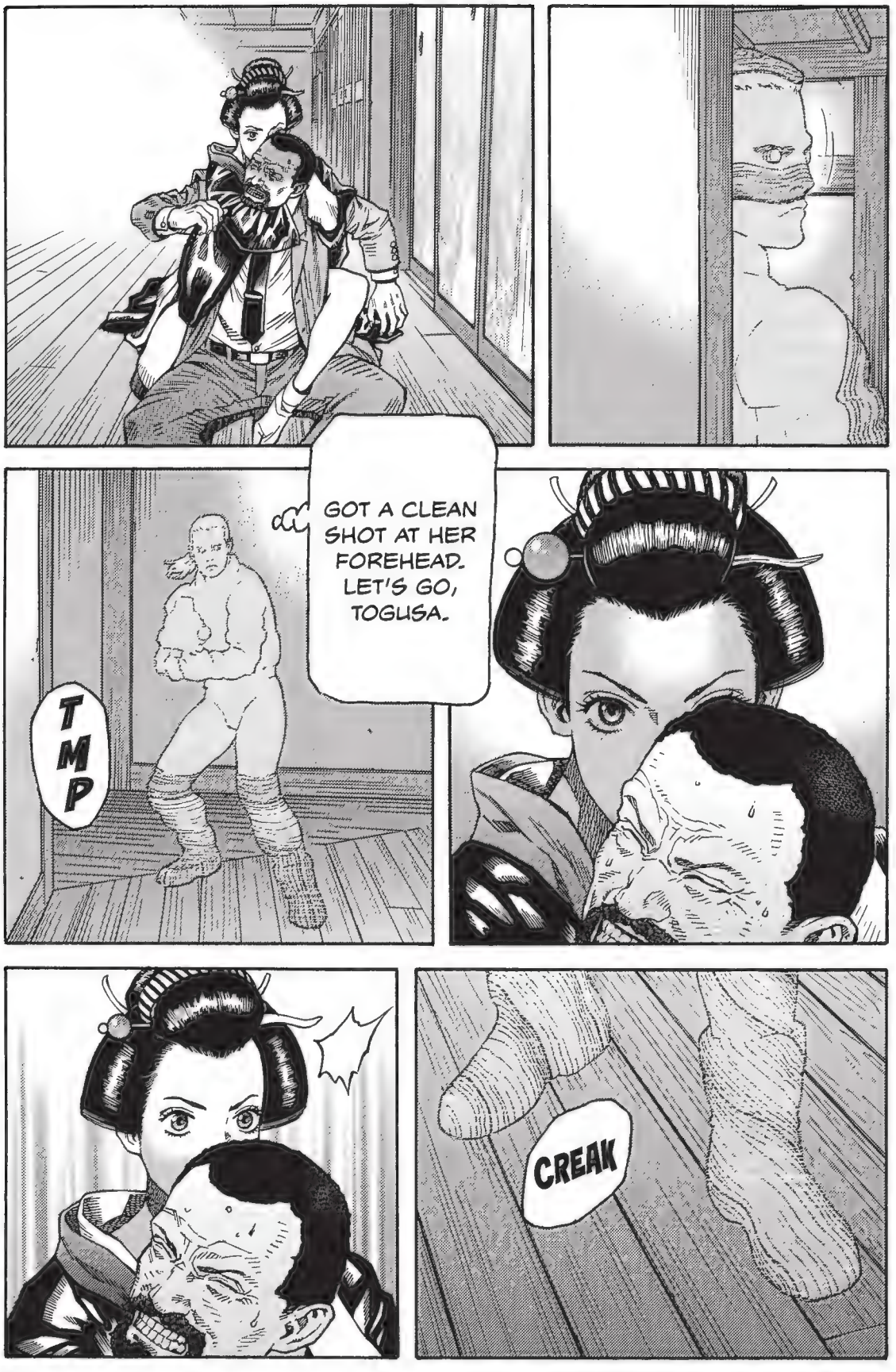
IT'S THE MINISTER!
HE'S ALIVE.
HE'S BEING HELD IN THE SAME POSE AS THE NAIPA AGENT.


CAN'T TELL FROM HERE IF SHE'S ALIVE.
IN THE VERY BACK THERE'S A WOMAN ON THE GROUND NEAR THE BATHROOM, PROBABLY THE SECRETARY.
VRRRR
KRRSSH
CAN'T CONFIRM HER STATUS.
NOT FROM THIS CAMERA, EITHER...
ENEMY POSI-TIONS CON-FIRMED. BEGIN ATTACK!
VRRR
VRRR


BATŌ
BATŌ, YOU TAKE THE ROBOT WITH THE NAIPA AGENT.
NAIPA AGENT
DIRECTOR
TOGUSA, THE DIRECTOR.
TOGUSA
MINISTER
KUSANAGI
SECRETARY
I'LL TAKE THE MINISTER.


TMP
WE'LL ATTACK AT THE SAME TIME.
IF YOU MISS, YOU RISK THE HOSTAGE'S LIVES. GET THEM ON THE FIRST SHOT.
FIRE WHEN YOU HEAR BATŌ'S GUN! GO!


ROGER!
ROGER!
KRRSSH
TMP
TMP
TMP


GOT A CLEAN SHOT AT HER FOREHEAD. LET'S GO, TOGUSA.
TMP
CREAK

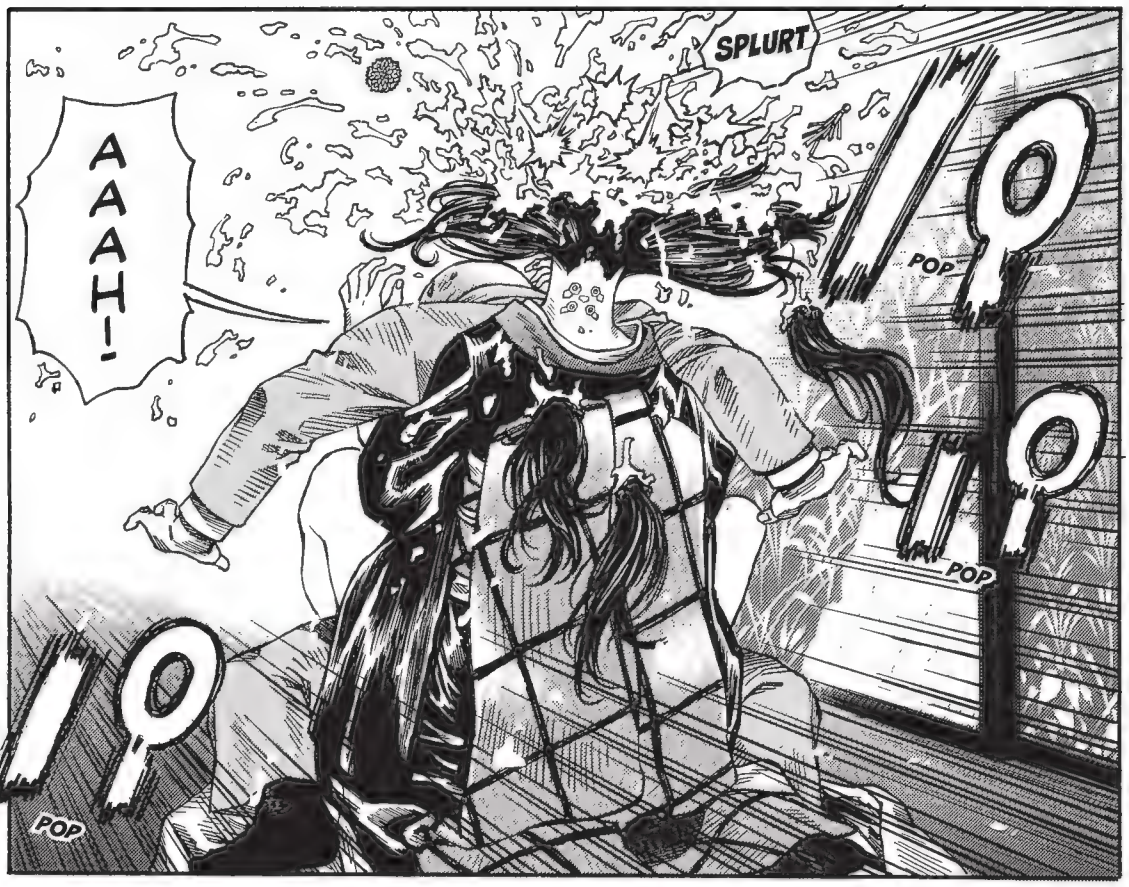
POP
CREAK
SHUU
SPLUUURT

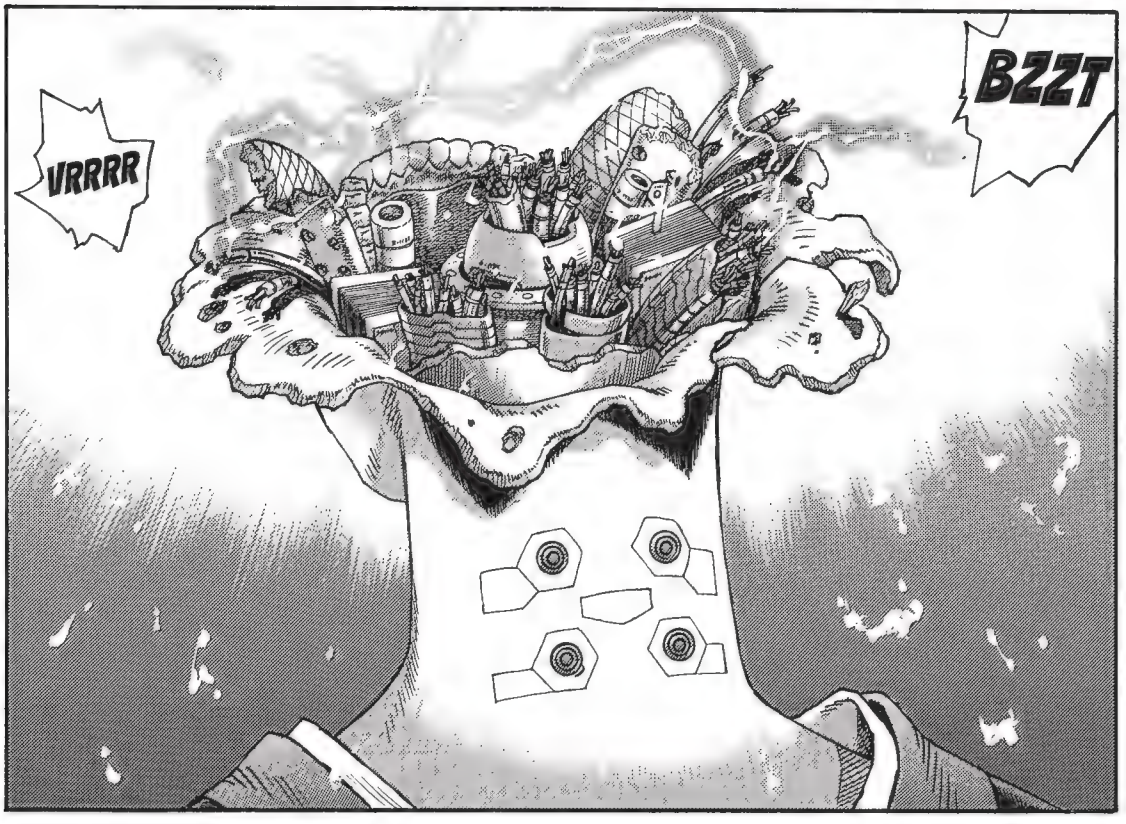
KRRRSSH
!
SPLURT
THUD
KRRSSH
GRAB
KRRSSH
THUD

POP
CHIKA CHIKA
DAMN IT...
SHE'LL GET AWAY!
THUMP
TMP
TOGUSA! YOU DIDN'T KILL HER!

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
HISSSSSS
BZZZT
BZZZT
BZZZT
UGGGAAH!!
KSSSH
KSSSH
KSSSH

CHIKA
CHIKA
CHIKA
CHIKA
CHIKA
CHIKA
CHIKA
CHIKA
CHIKA
CHIKA
CHIKA


AAAH!
SPLURT
POP
POP
POP

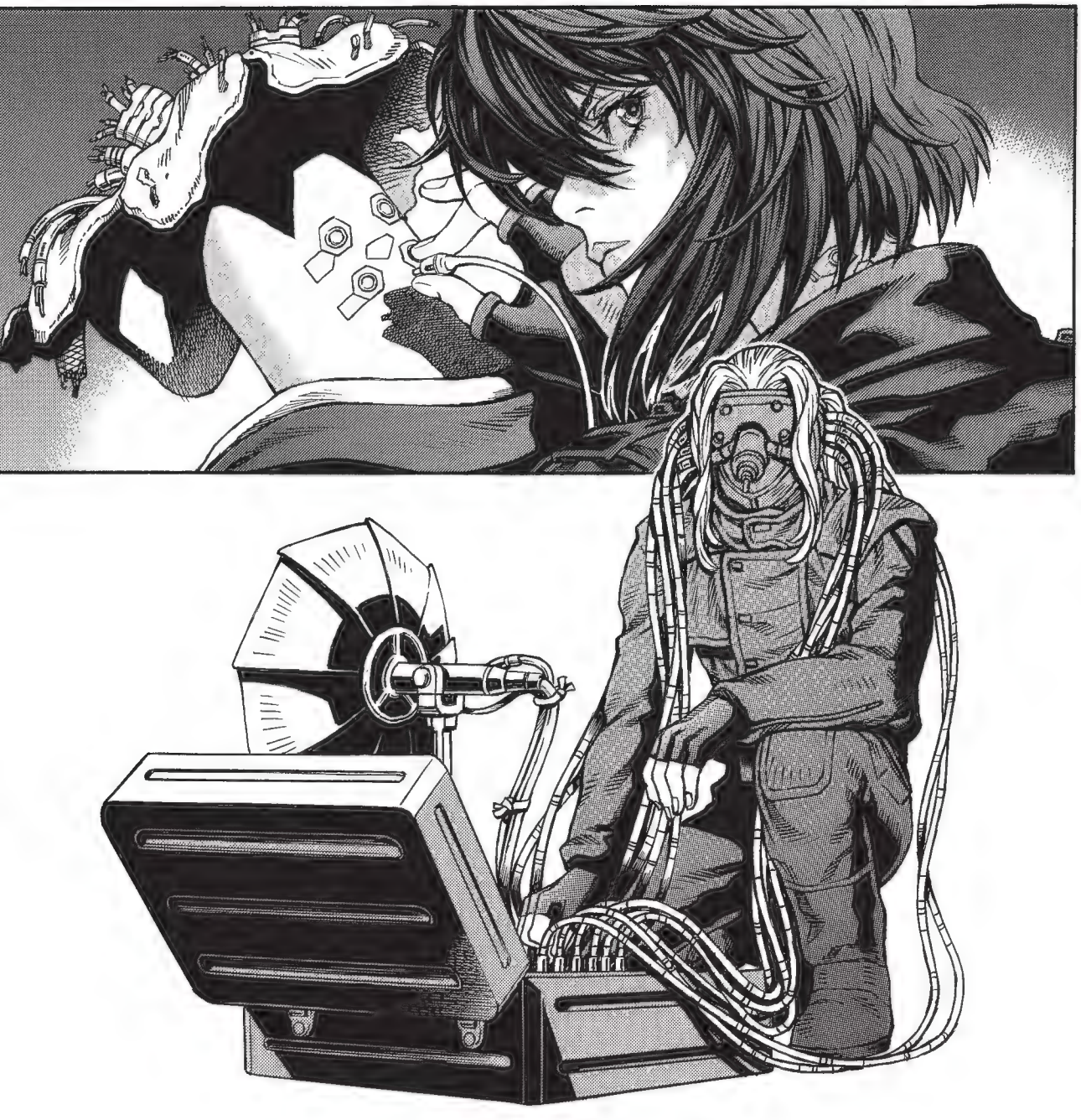

VRRRR
BZZT

SHUUU
CLICK
THUMP
UGGHH...
VRRR
TMP
SNAP
VRRR

GRAB
SNAP
VIRUS INITIATED!
NOW WE'LL SEE WHO'S CONTROLLING THESE ROBOTS!!

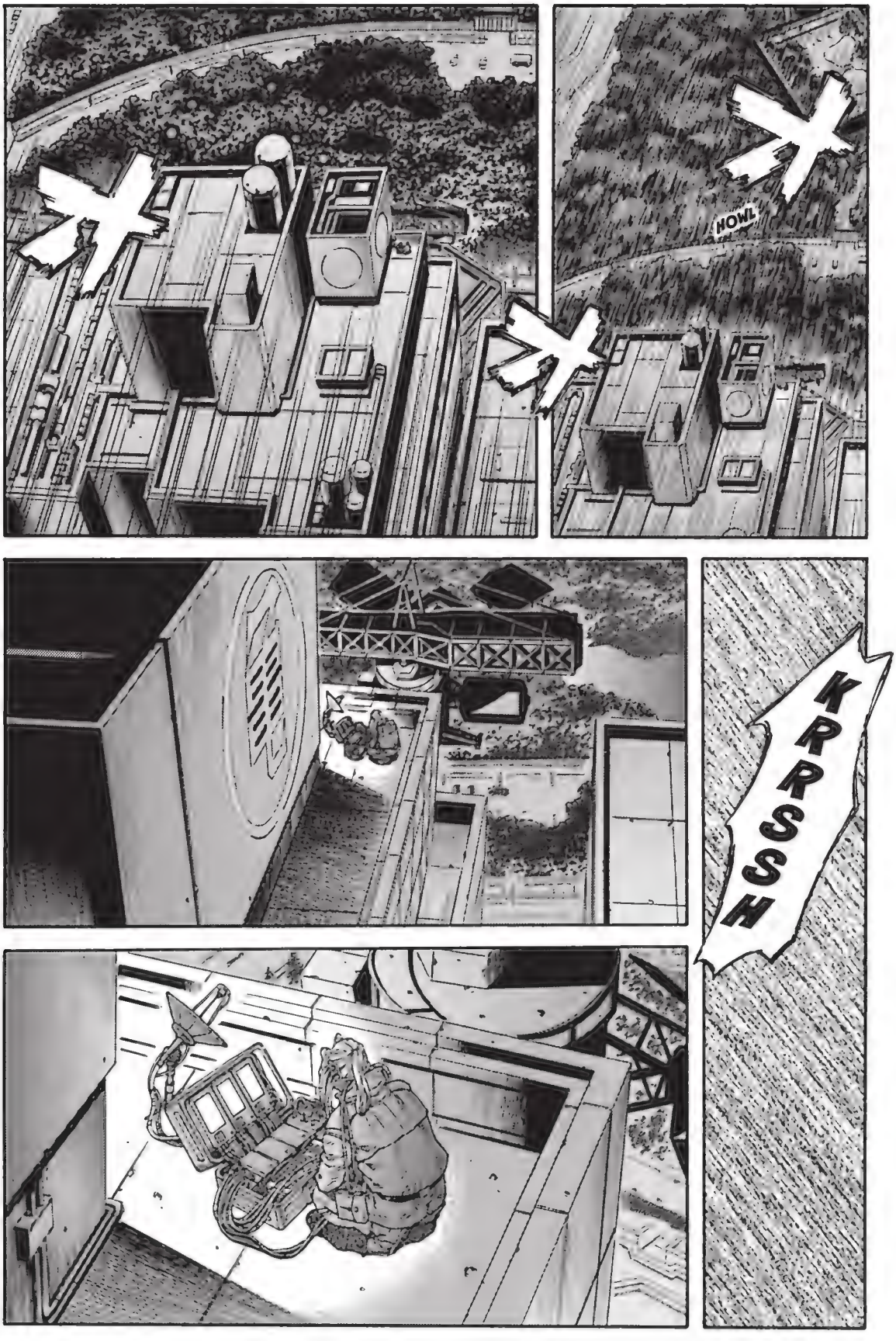
#004 / End

#005: Search Initiated



KRRSSH
KRRSH
GRAB
VIRUS INITIATED!
NOW WE'LL SEE WHO'S CONTROLLING THESE ROBOTS!
CLICK
RUMBLE

KRRRSSH
TSSSH
HOWL
RUMBLE


HOWL
KRSSSH

IS IT HIM?
!
KRRSH
AGGH!
CRACKLE
UGH!
CRACKLE
GRAB

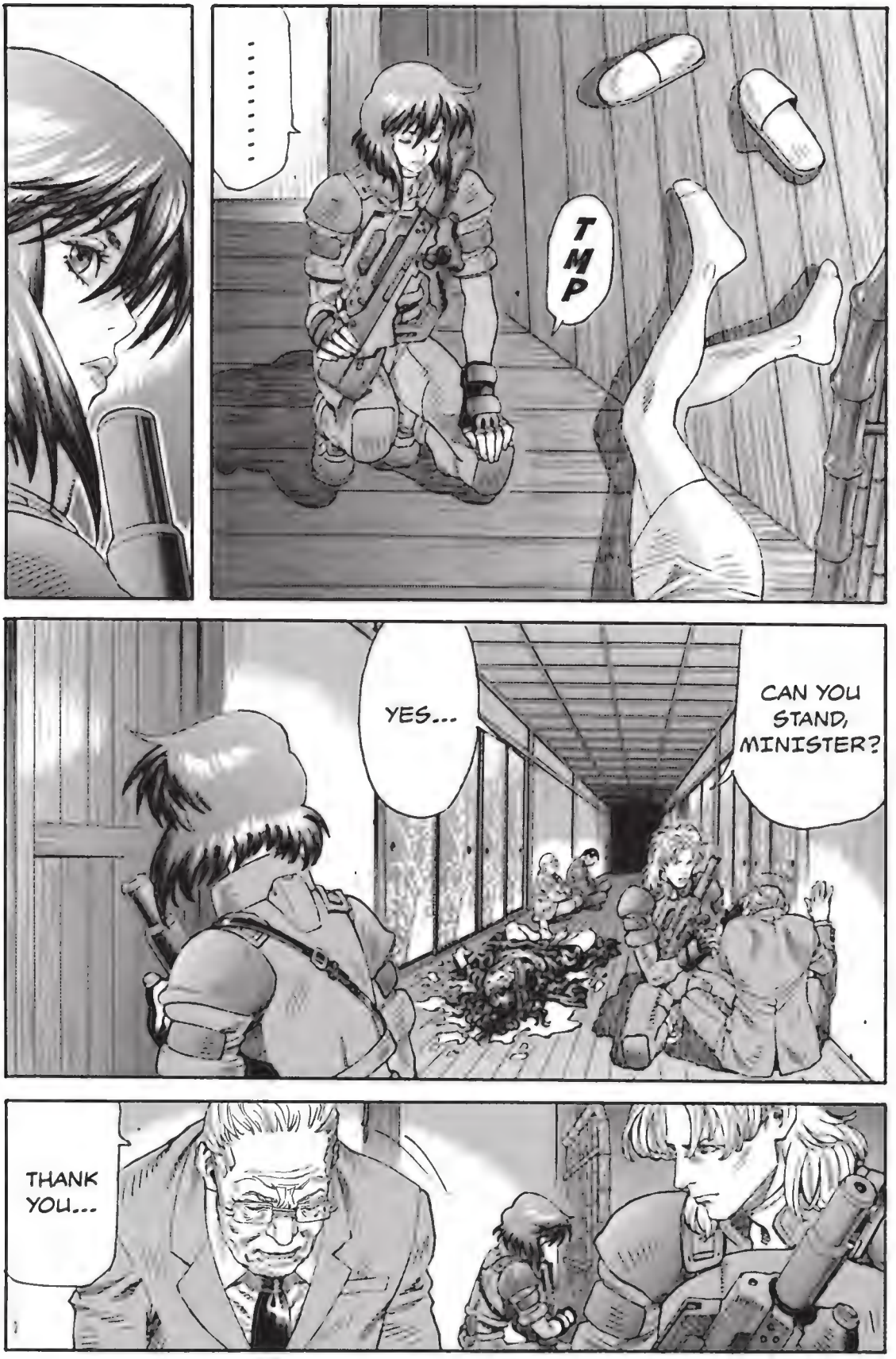
CLICK
PAZ! BORMA!
OOF!
TMP
KRSSH
THUD
OW...
KRSSH

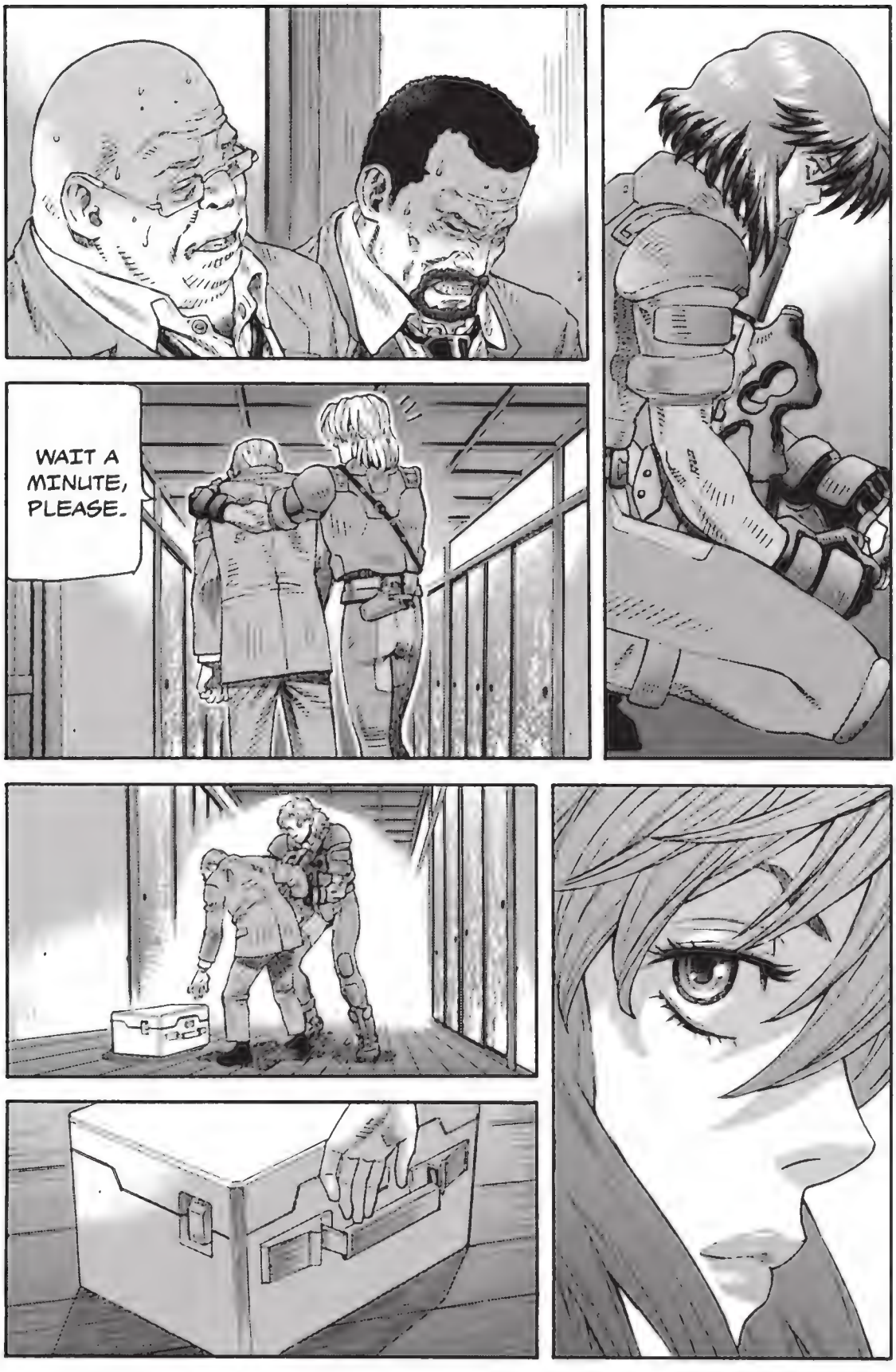
VRRR
GASP
ROGER!
VROOM
FOLLOW THE TRACER VIRUS!
BATŌ! TOGUSA!
DEACTI-VATE IMAGE CAMOU-FLAGE!
BATŌ, COVER PAZ AND BORMA!
PHEW ⋮
KRSSH
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
NO TIME FOR REGRETS, TOGUSA!
TMP
BZZT
MAJOR, I MISSED ⋮

PAT
ROGER
NOW!
SECURE THE HOS-TAGES!
CONFIRMED SAFETY OF THE MINISTER, COMMITTEE HEAD AND ONE NAIPA AGENT!
CHIEF ARAMAKI! WE'VE CLEARED THE PREMISES!
HAHO
TMP
!
TMP

SHE'LL NEED AN AMBU-LANCE.
A FEMALE HOSTAGE, THE SECRETARY, IS GRAVELY INJURED.
...IS CON-FIRMED DEAD— HEAD INJURY.
THE LAST HOS-TAGE...
...THE OTHER NAIPA AGENT...

BE ON YOUR GUARD.
BRING THE HOSTAGES OUTSIDE.
BATŌ'S TEAM IS TRACKING THE CULPRIT!
MOVE THEM UNDER SECURE PROTOCOL B6.
WE'VE GOT FOUR VEHICLES NEAR THE FRONT ENTRANCE.
ROGER!


.....
TMP
YES...
CAN YOU STAND, MINISTER?
THANK YOU...


WAIT A MINUTE, PLEASE.

TMP
SHOOM
TMP
SHOOM
TMP
SHOOM
TMP
SHOOM
TMP
SHOOM
TMP
SHOOM
TMP
SHOOM
TMP
SHOOM

NH-a7543
SKRREEE
京城
SKREEEE
VRROOOOOOH
NH-a7543

MAJOR! THE TARGET IS A CYBORG, RUNNING ON FOOT!!
WE'RE RUNNING HIM THROUGH OUR DATABASE, SO FAR NO MATCHES!!
TMP
SHOOM
TMP
SHOOM
TMP
SHOOM
TMP
TMP
TMP
DON'T KILL HIM UNTIL YOU FIND OUT HIS MOTIVE!
ROGER!

DON'T JUMP IN FRONT OF THE CAR!
I'M NOT A KID!
BORMA!
JOIN-ING YOU SOON!
THP
THP
THP
!
THP
YOU WITH ME, TACHI-KOMA?
JUMP

THUD
SHOOM
TMP
SHOOM
TMP
SHOOM
TMP
TMP
SKREEEE
TMP
TMP
VRRRROOM
NH-a7543

VROOH
HE'S FAST!
WHERE'S BATŌ?!
VROOH
VROOH
TCH.
DUNNO.
SHOOM
THP
THP
THP
SHOOM
SHOOM

VROOM
VROOM
DAMN CYBORG!
SKREEE
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
VROOM
YOU WON'T GET AWAY, DAMN IT!!
NH-a 7543
TMP
TMP
TMP

#005 / End

#006: Loose Cannon

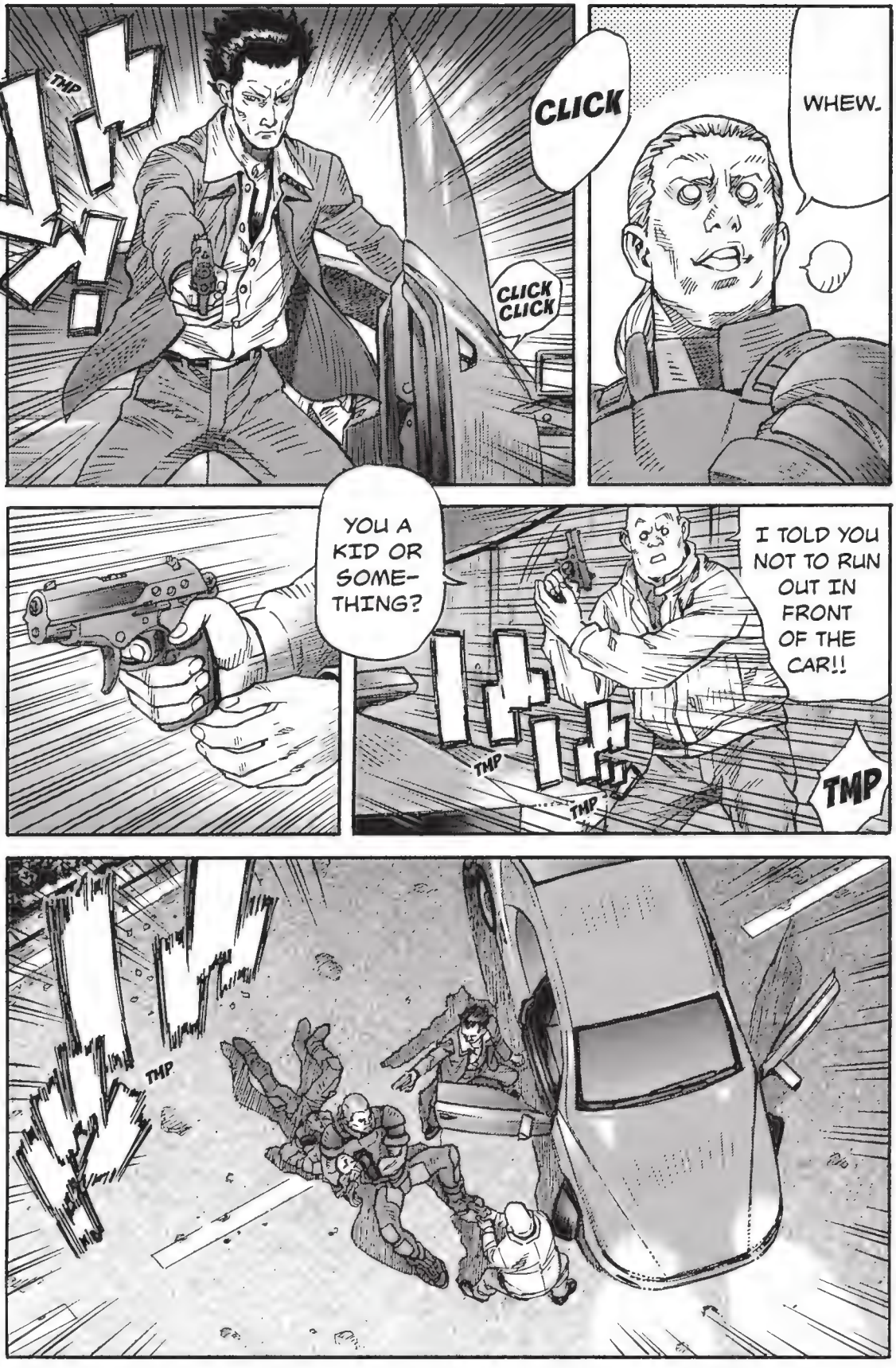
DAMN CYBORG!!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY, DAMN IT!!
SHOOM
SHOOM
VROOM
NH-a 7543
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

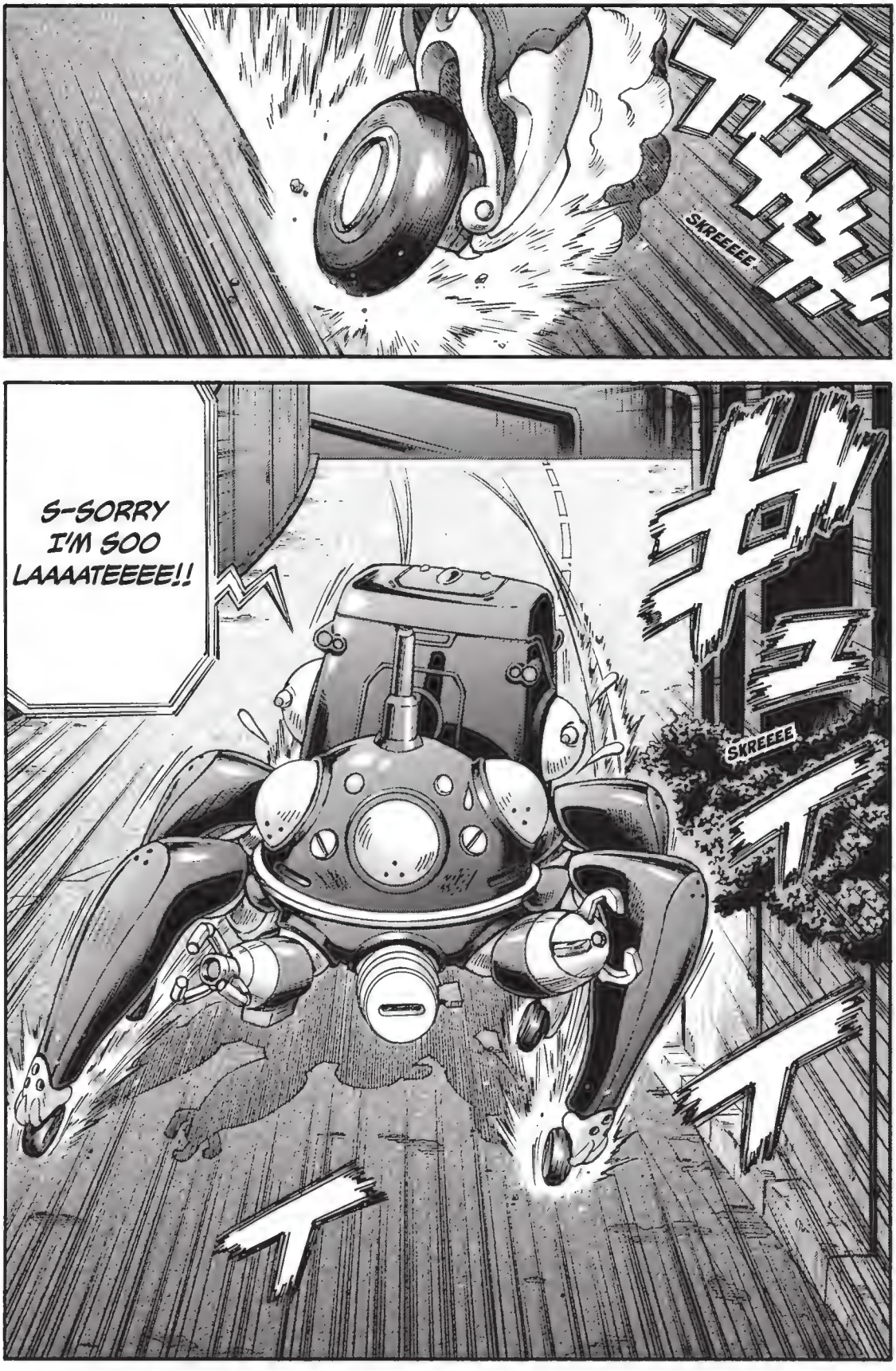
SHOOM
SHOOM
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
RUSTLE
VROOOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
TMP
TMP
TMP
WHA...
BATŌ?!
AH!

GRAB

THUD
THUD
SKREEE
SKREEEEEEEE
SKREEEE
DAMN IT!

SKREEEE
THWACK
SKREEE
NH-a7543

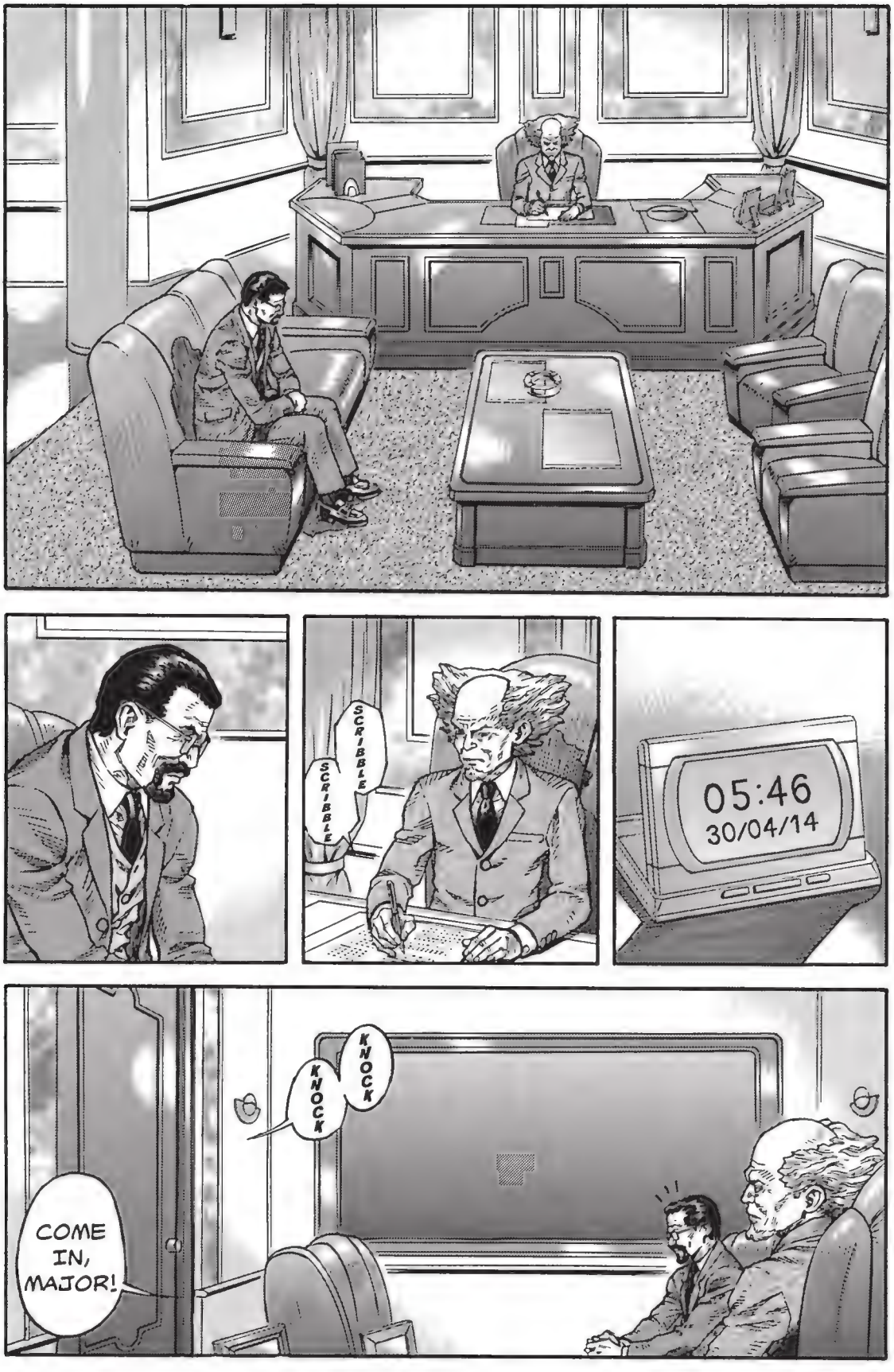

TMP
CLICK
CLICK CLICK
WHEW.
YOU A KID OR SOME-THING?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO RUN OUT IN FRONT OF THE CAR!!
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP


SKREEEEE
S-SORRY I'M SOO LAAAATEEEE!!
SKREEEE

AAAHH
CLICK CLICK
DAMN YOU, TACHI-KOMA!!
SPIN SPIN
UGH...
YOU GIVE UP?!
NOW...
OOOH?!
CRACK
HM?
AAARRGH!!

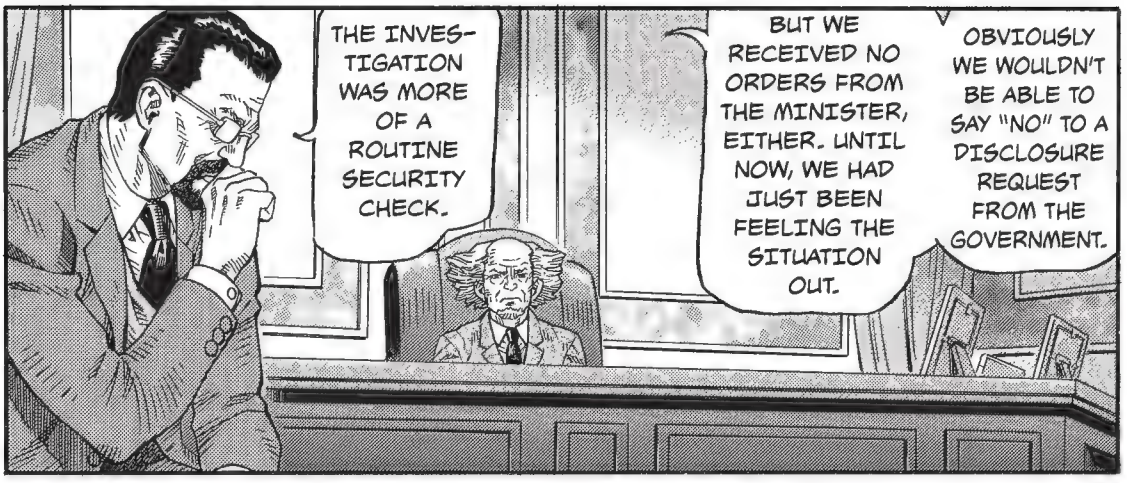
DANGLE
SON OF A BITCH.
SHOOOH
?!
BZZZT
KRSSH
GRAB

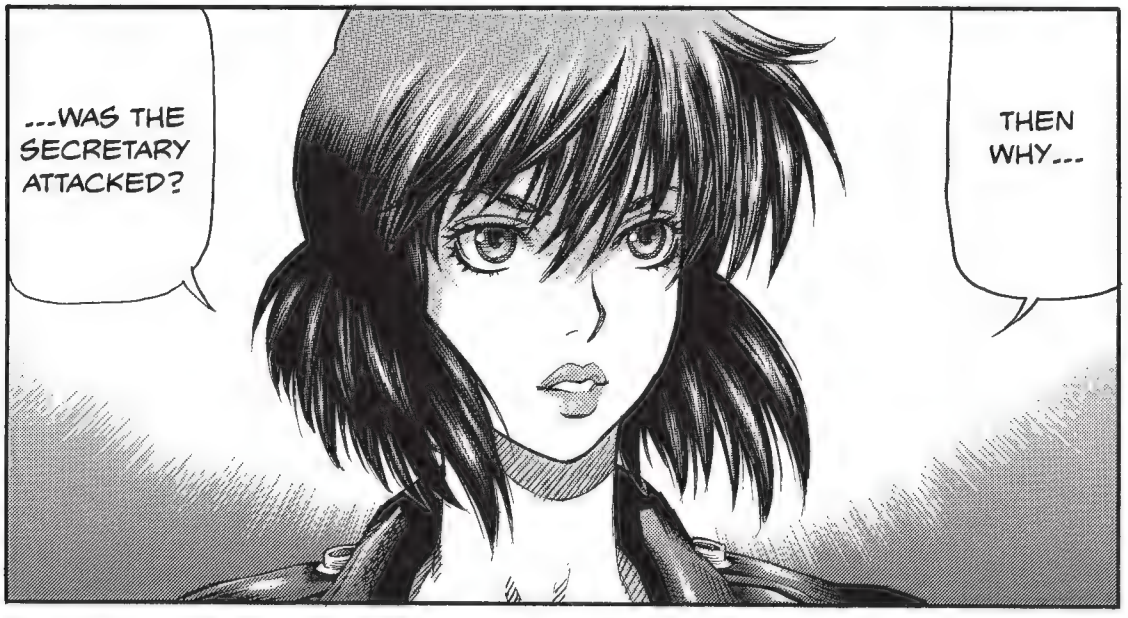
HMMM?
HM...
.....
THIS BASTARD... ERASED HIS OWN MEMORY...
THIS CAN'T BE GOOD...
PUBLIC SECURITY SECTION 9 BUILDING
ROOOOOAR
ゴ
ゴ
ゴ

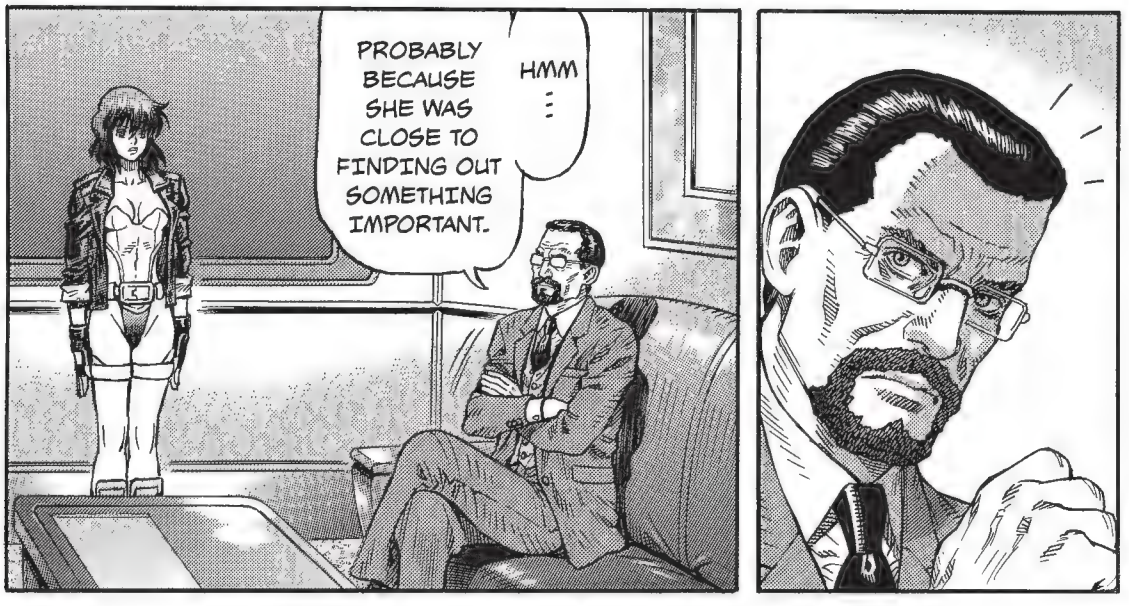

SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
05:46
30/04/14
KNOCK
KNOCK
COME IN, MAJOR!

TMP
CREAK
CLICK
VERY WELL...
GO AHEAD, KUBOTA.
TMP
THAT'S KUBOTA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE MILITARY...
TMP
TMP
SLAM
TMP
TMP
TMP

...WAS WORKING FOR ME, SECRETLY GATHERING INFORMATION ON THE MINISTER.
SO... ...THE MINISTER'S SECRETARY, WHO SUFFERED THE BRAIN INJURY...
YES... THERE WAS INTEREST LATELY...
...AMONG HIS PEOPLE ABOUT THE "ICHINOSE REPORT."
ON THE MINISTER? WHY?
THE ICHINOSE REPORT...
THE REPORT WHICH CONTAINS INFORMATION REGARDING EMERGENCY DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY TACTICS...
YES.


THE INVESTIGATION WAS MORE OF A ROUTINE SECURITY CHECK.
BUT WE RECEIVED NO ORDERS FROM THE MINISTER, EITHER. UNTIL NOW, WE HAD JUST BEEN FEELING THE SITUATION OUT.
OBVIOUSLY WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SAY "NO" TO A DISCLOSURE REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

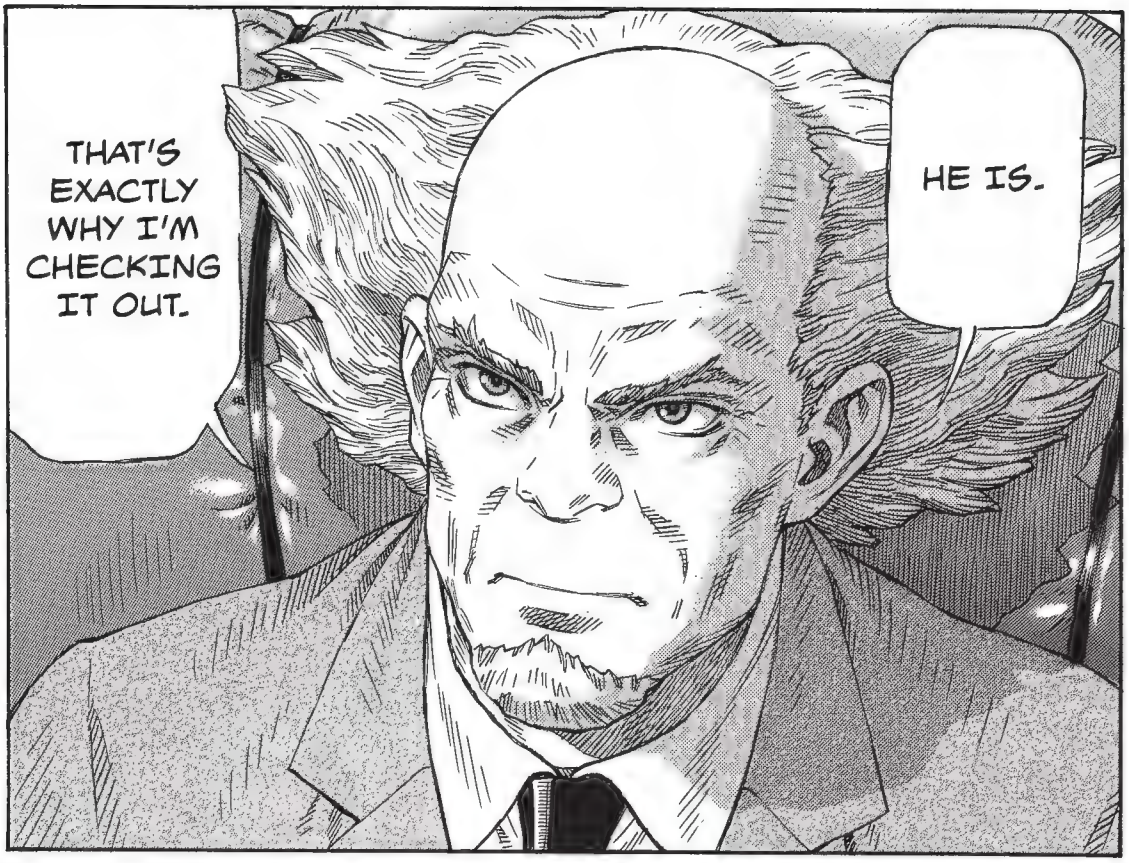

---WAS THE SECRETARY ATTACKED?
THEN WHY---

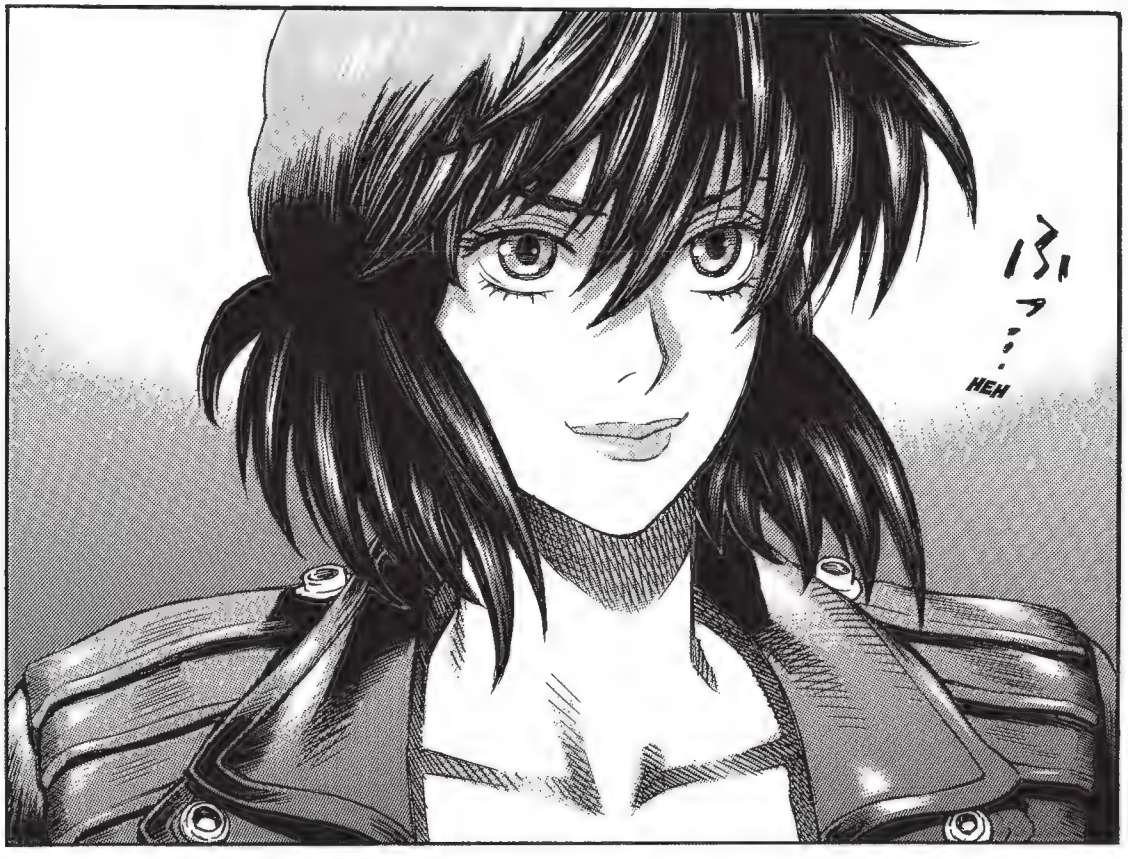

PROBABLY BECAUSE SHE WAS CLOSE TO FINDING OUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
HMM...

NO SIGNS OF BLACK-MAIL OR SUSPI-CIOUS BANK ACTIVITY.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S CLEAN AT THIS POINT.
AND WHAT ABOUT THE MIN-ISTER'S PERSONAL AFFAIRS?
I SCREWED THIS ONE UP...
YES...
THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
SO YOU DIDN'T FIND ANY-THING OF CONSE-QUENCE?
BE MY GUEST.
I'D LIKE SECTION 9 TO TAKE OVER THIS CASE. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

...DON'T DO ANY-THING TO HURT YOUR CAREER.
BUT...
TMP
I'LL COVER FOR YOU!
SLAM
CLICK
TMP
TMP
TMP

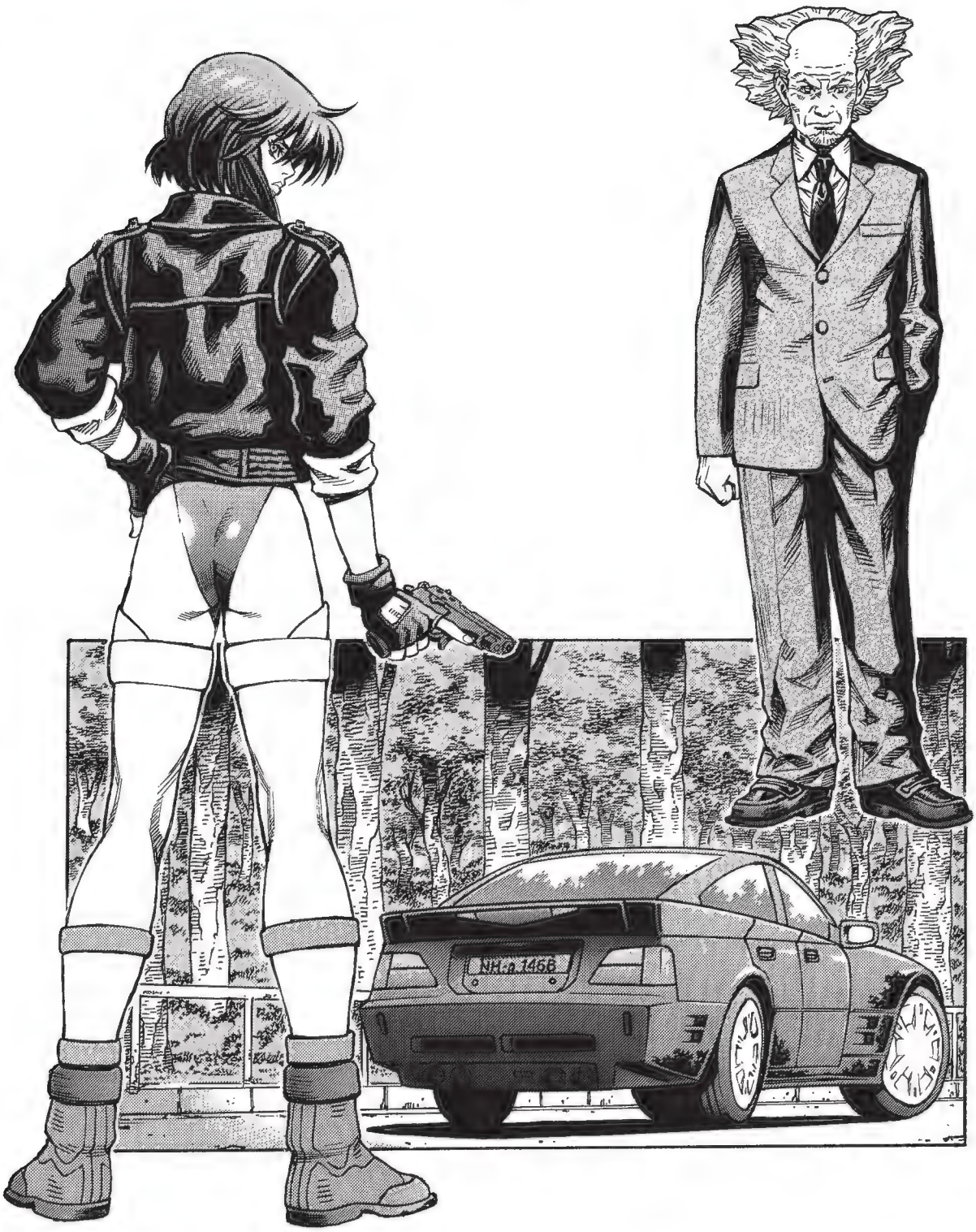
WELL?
I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED AT THAT RESTAURANT!
AND....
LET'S TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE MINISTER'S AFFAIRS.
I THOUGHT THAT MAN WAS YOUR FRIEND?
OH?
I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHY THE MILITARY IS INTERESTED IN THE ICHINOSE REPORT.


HE IS.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M CHECKING IT OUT.


HEH

#006 / End

#007: Searching for Evidence



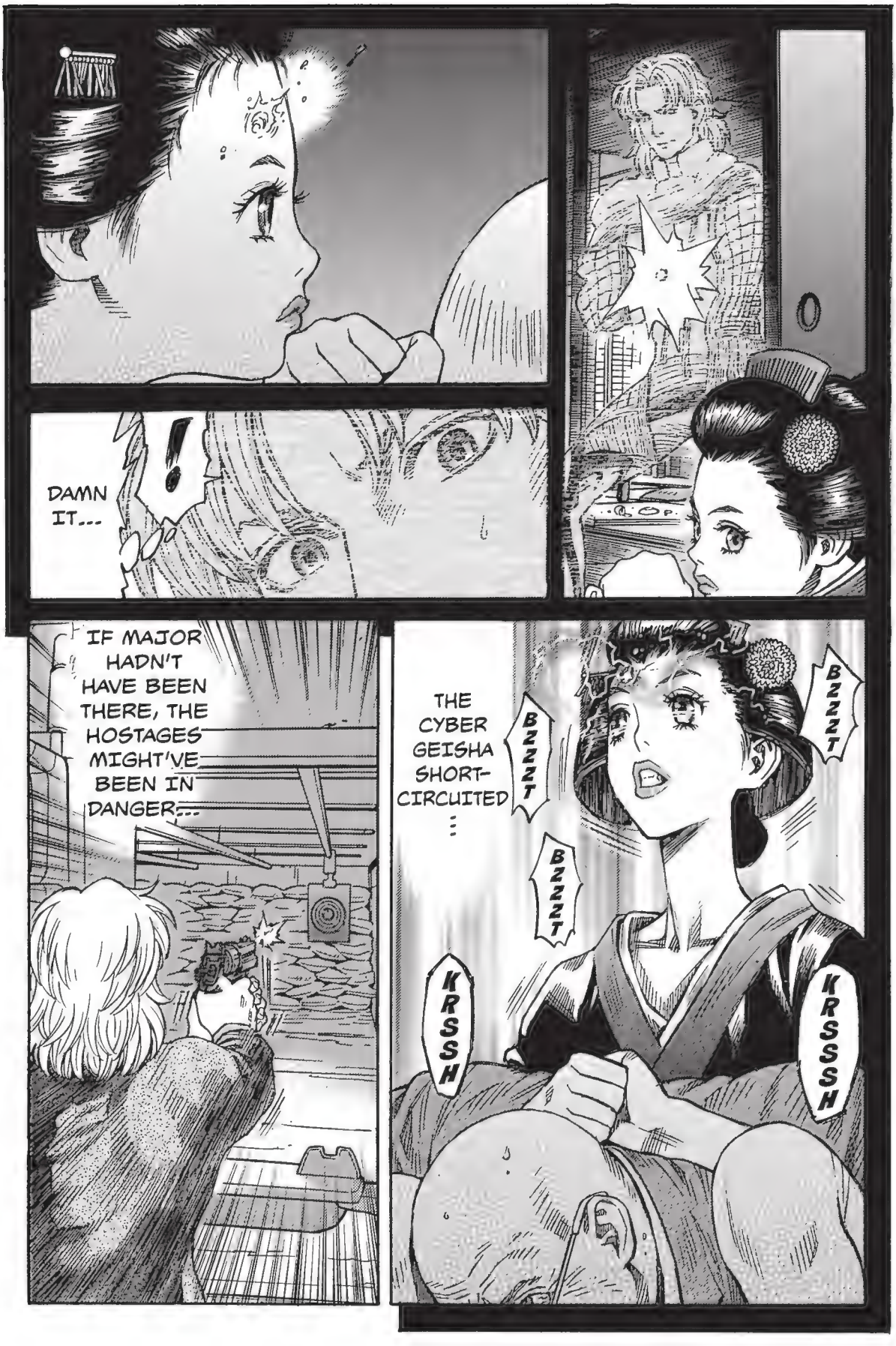
THE SUSPECT'S OBJECTIVE...
....WAS TO HACK INTO THE CYBER GEISHA AND CONTROL THEM.
HE USED THEM TO TAKE THE MINISTER AND HIS GROUP HOSTAGE.
BUT THAT'S ALL WE KNOW. HE WON'T TALK.
BECAUSE HE ERASED HIS MEMORIES...
...RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

HE KNEW IT MIGHT DAMAGE HIS BRAIN...
HE'S GOT SOME BALLS.

...I LOOK LIKE A FOOL.
AND NOW...

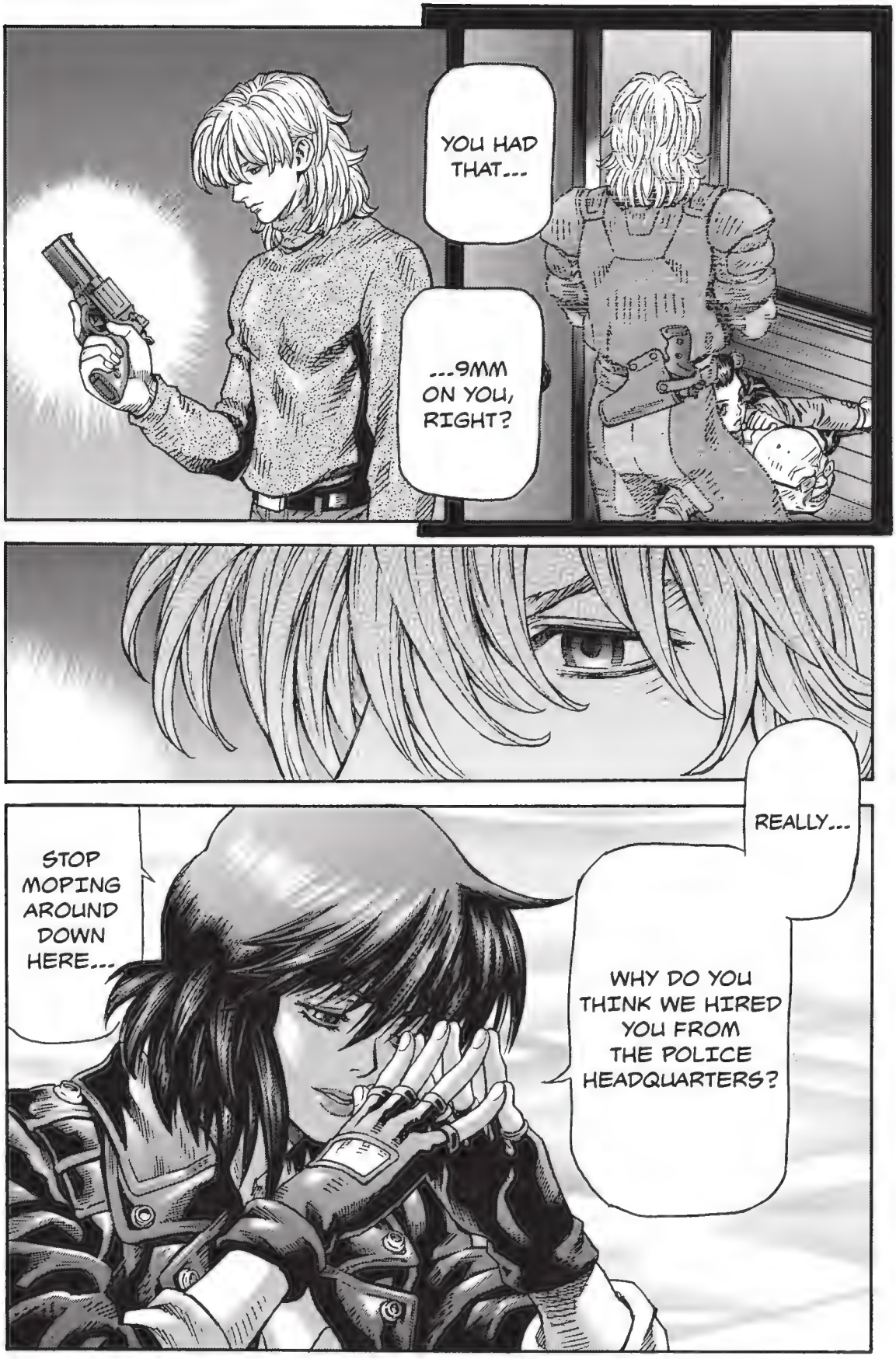
WE CAN'T HELP IT.
CLICK
WE'LL HAVE TO CHANGE TACTICS.
CLICK
CLICK
BANG
BANG

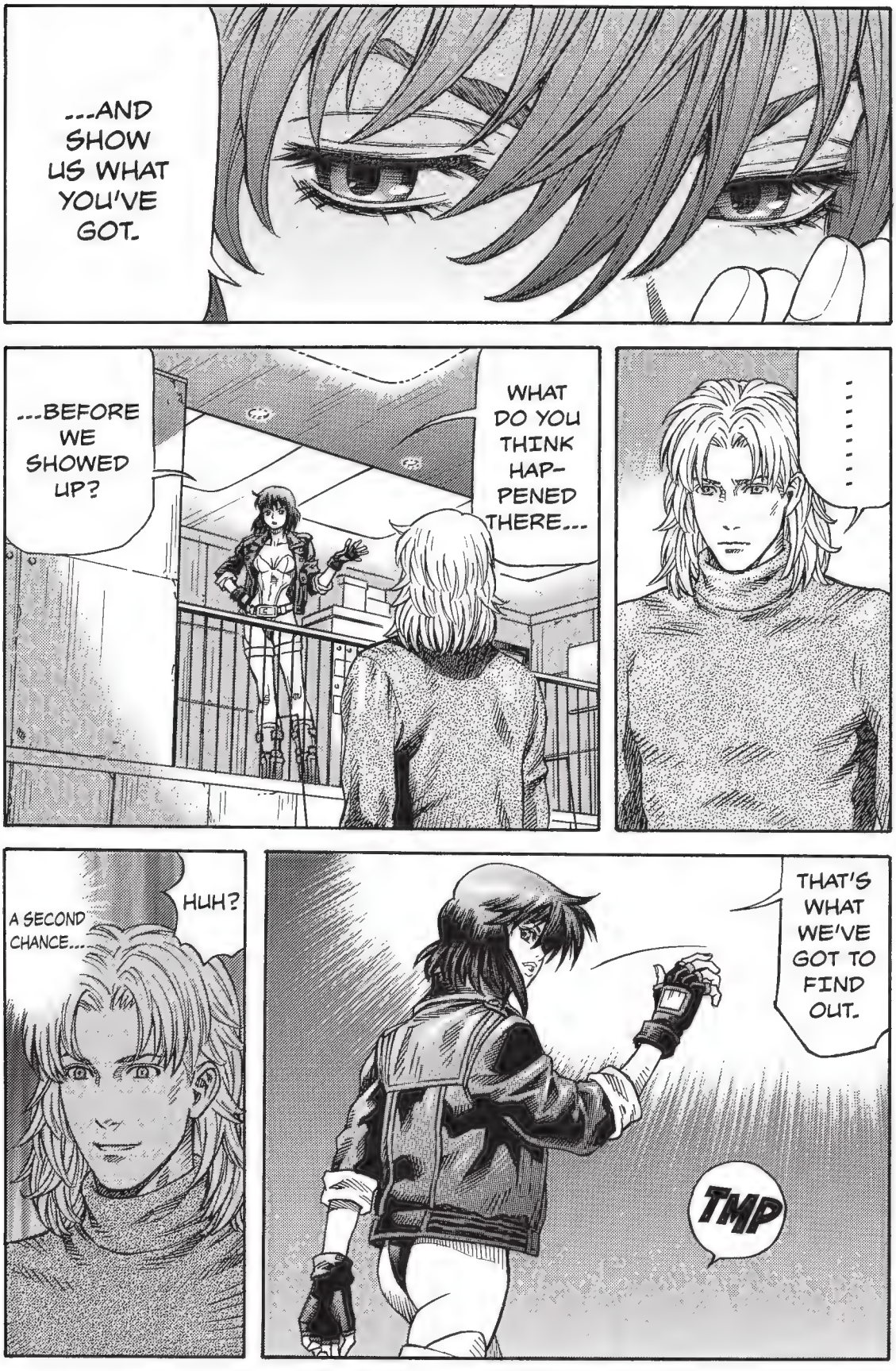
BANG
8
10
BANG
IT'S MY FAULT...
BANG
BANG
MY FAULT THAT I MISSED...


DAMN IT...
IF MAJOR HADN'T HAVE BEEN THERE, THE HOSTAGES MIGHT'VE BEEN IN DANGER...
THE CYBER GEISHA SHORT-CIRCUITED...
BZZZT
BZZZT
BZZZT
KRSSH
KRSSH

YOU'RE WASTING OUR MONEY.
!
CLICK
5
8
11
MAJOR ...?
...MIGHT AS WELL BECOME A CYBORG.
IF YOU RUN DOWN HERE FOR TARGET PRACTICE FOR EVERY MISSION...

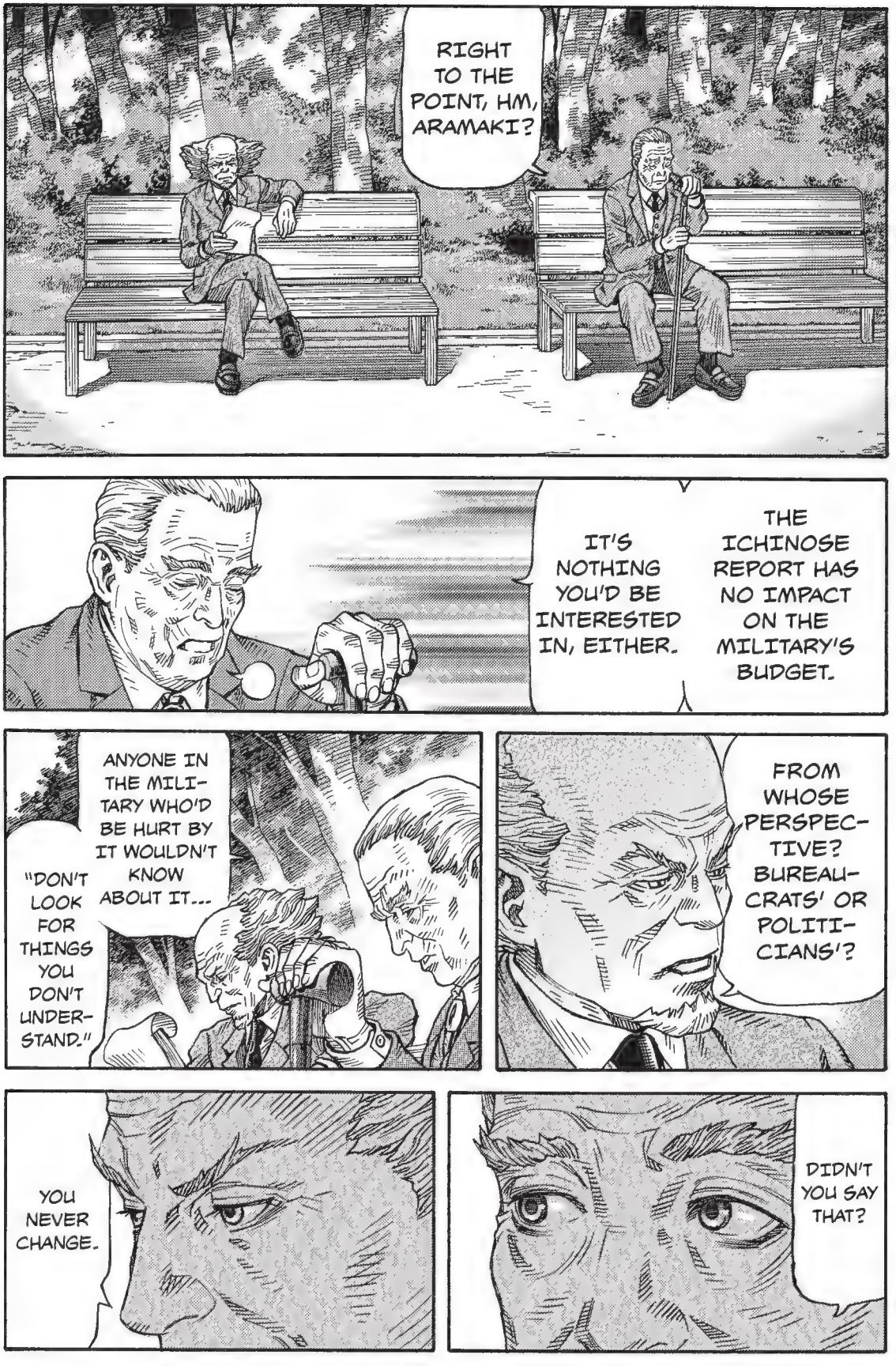
ME, BECOME A CYBORG?
I'M NOT ONE TO MIX BUSINESS WITH PERSONAL AFFAIRS.
I THOUGHT YOU DID A GOOD JOB TODAY.
BUT...
...IF YOU THINK YOUR SHOT MIGHT HIT A HOSTAGE...
...YOU NEED TO MAKE A JUDGMENT CALL.


YOU HAD THAT...
...9MM ON YOU, RIGHT?
REALLY...
WHY DO YOU THINK WE HIRED YOU FROM THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS?
STOP MOPING AROUND DOWN HERE...


...AND SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT.
...BEFORE WE SHOWED UP?
WHAT DO YOU THINK HAP-PENED THERE...
.....
A SECOND CHANCE...
HUH?
THAT'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT.
TMP

SLAM
CLICK
TMP
TMP
TMP

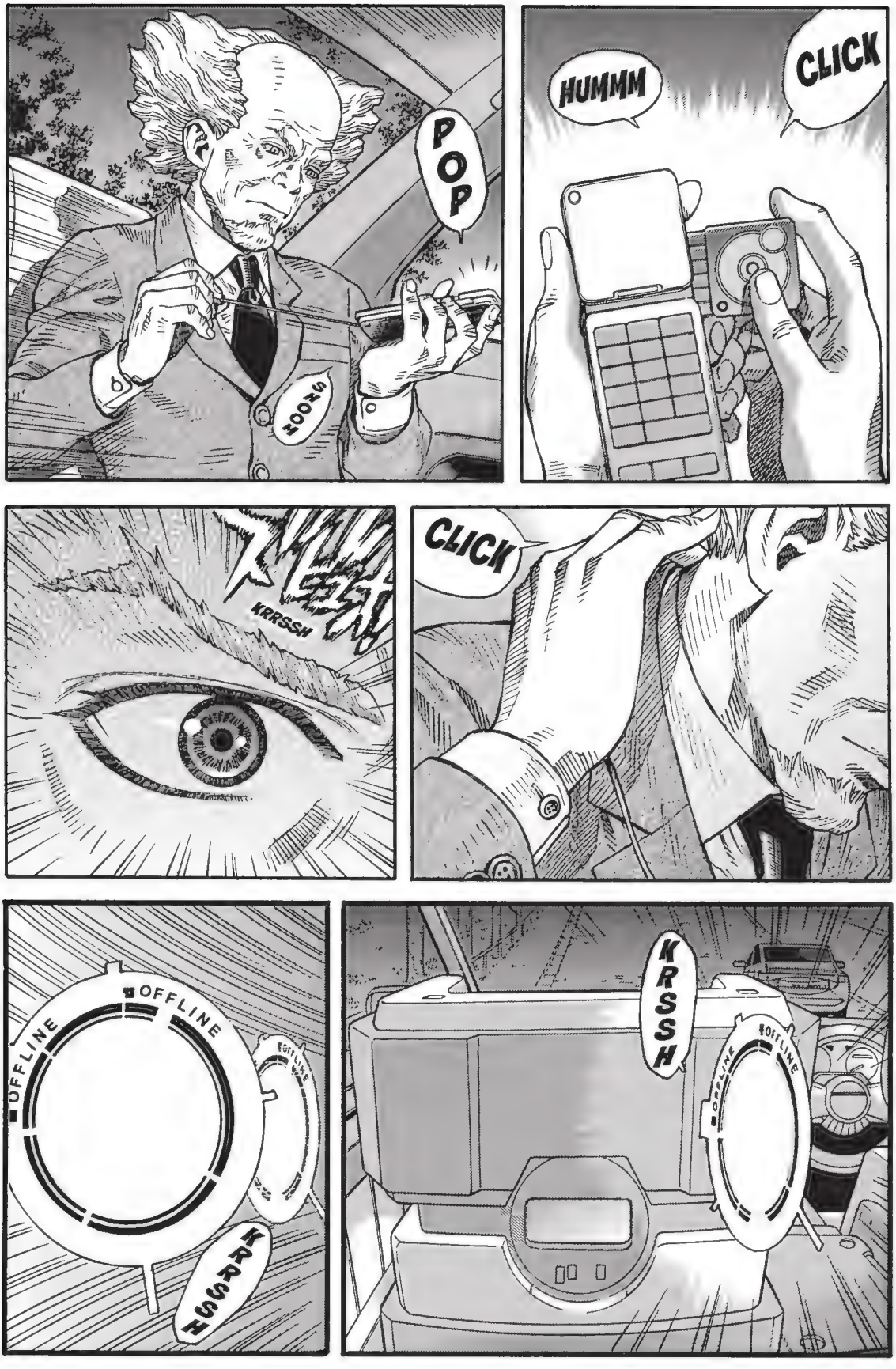
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
HOW ARE THE GRAND-KIDS?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS CASE?

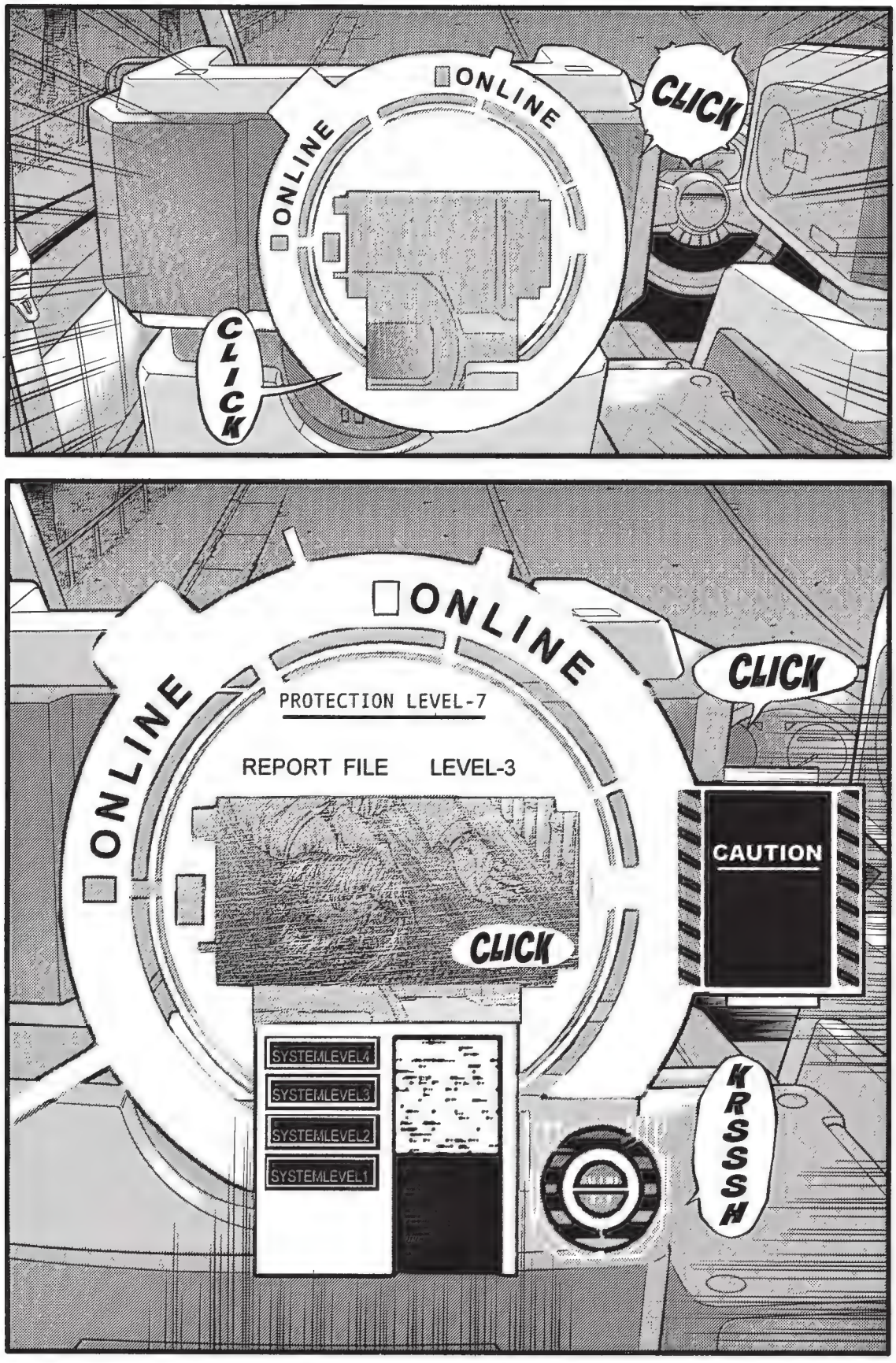

RIGHT TO THE POINT, HM, ARAMAKI?
IT'S NOTHING YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN, EITHER.
THE ICHINOSE REPORT HAS NO IMPACT ON THE MILITARY'S BUDGET.
"DON'T LOOK FOR THINGS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND."
ANYONE IN THE MILITARY WHO'D BE HURT BY IT WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT...
FROM WHOSE PERSPECTIVE? BUREAUCRATS' OR POLITICIANS'?
YOU NEVER CHANGE.
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT?

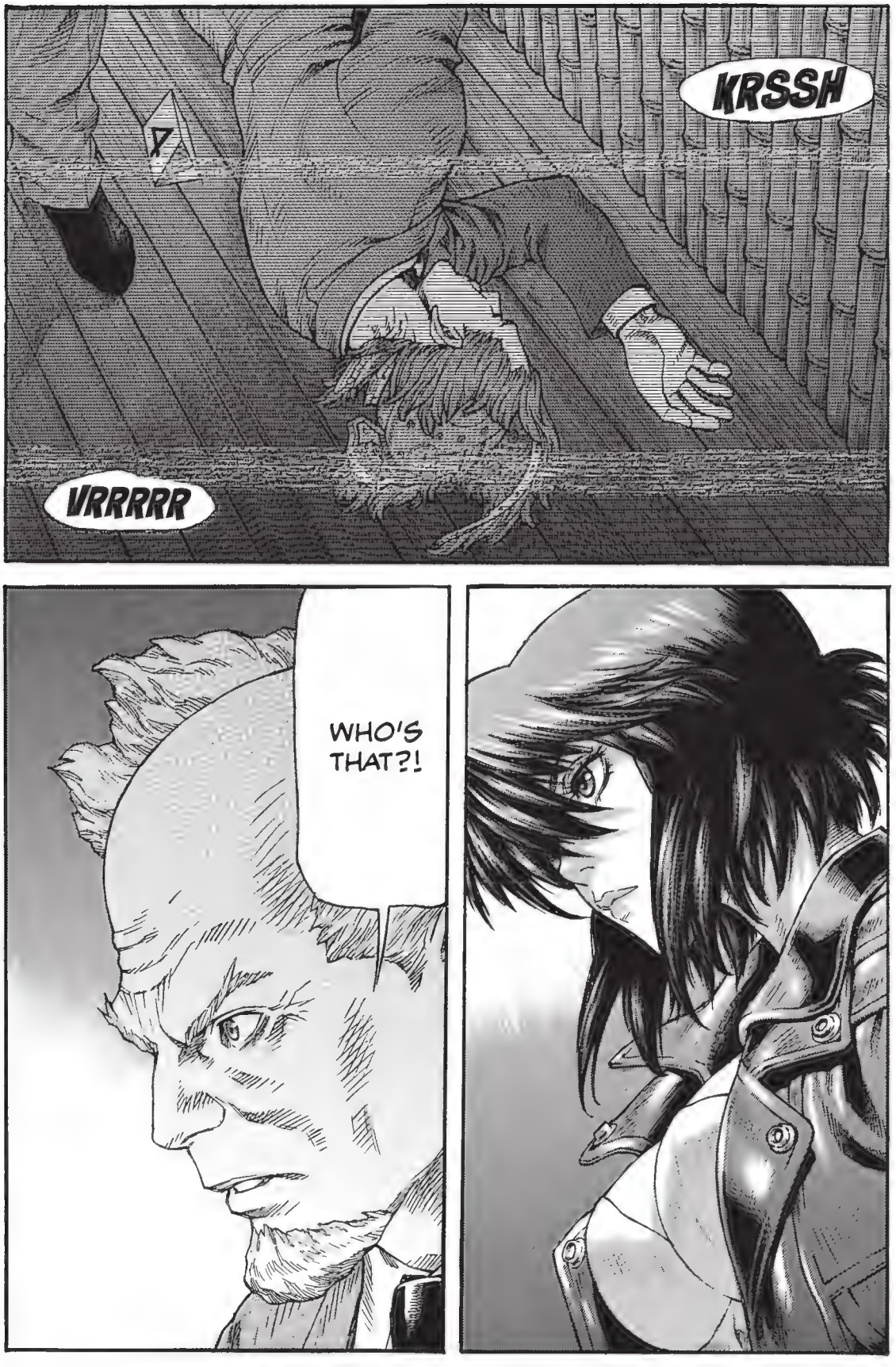
I KNOW A PLACE...
...THAT SERVES DELICIOUS SHRIMP. WANT TO STOP BY?
TMP
MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME.
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

MAJOR IS WAITING FOR YOU.
UM-HUM.
TMP
TMP
TMP
NH-a 1468
CLICK

FIND ANY-THING?
SHOOM
VIDEO OF THE WILLOW ROOM IM-MEDIATELY FOLLOWING. PLUS...
...SOMETHING DISTURBING FROM THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS.
SLAM

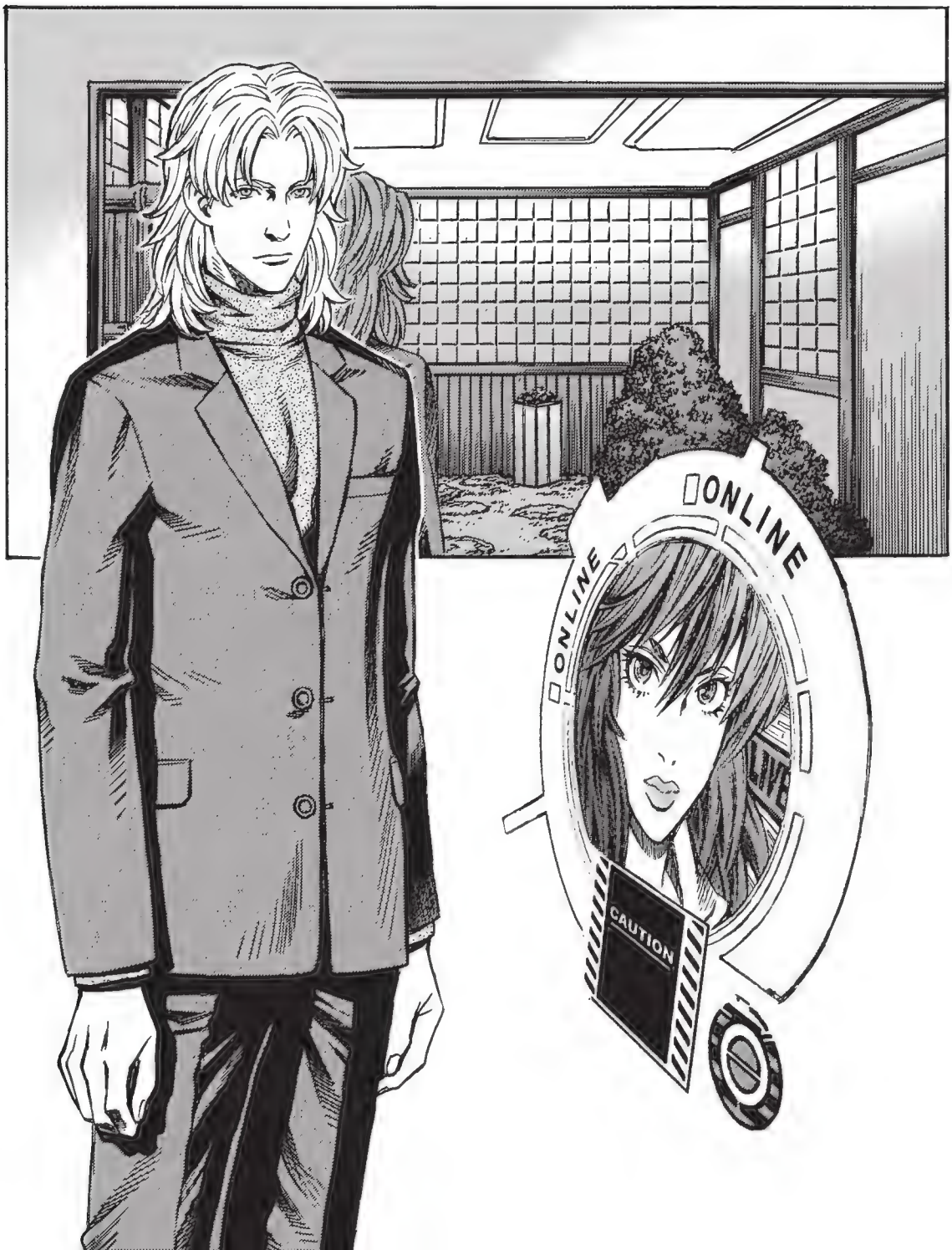

POP
SHOOK
HUMMM
CLICK
KRRSSH
CLICK
OFFLINE
OFFLINE
OFFLINE
KRRSSH
KRSSH
OFFLINE
OFFLINE


ONLINE
ONLINE
ONLINE
CLICK
CLICK
ONLINE
ONLINE
PROTECTION LEVEL-7
REPORT FILE LEVEL-3
CLICK
CLICK
CAUTION
SYSTEMLEVEL4
SYSTEMLEVEL3
SYSTEMLEVEL2
SYSTEMLEVEL1
KRSSSH

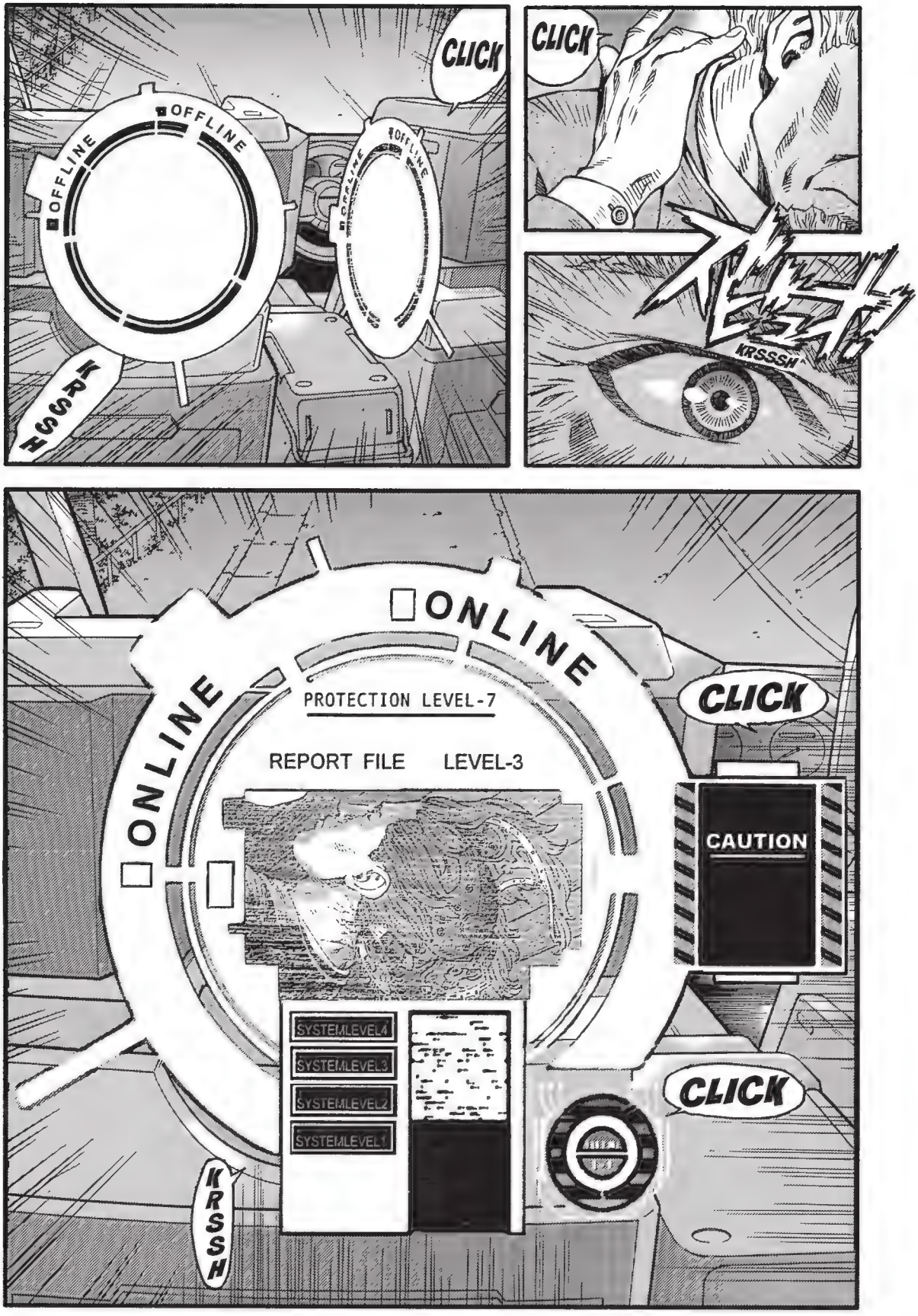

KRSSH
VRRRRR
WHO'S THAT?!

#007 / End

#008: Blind Spot

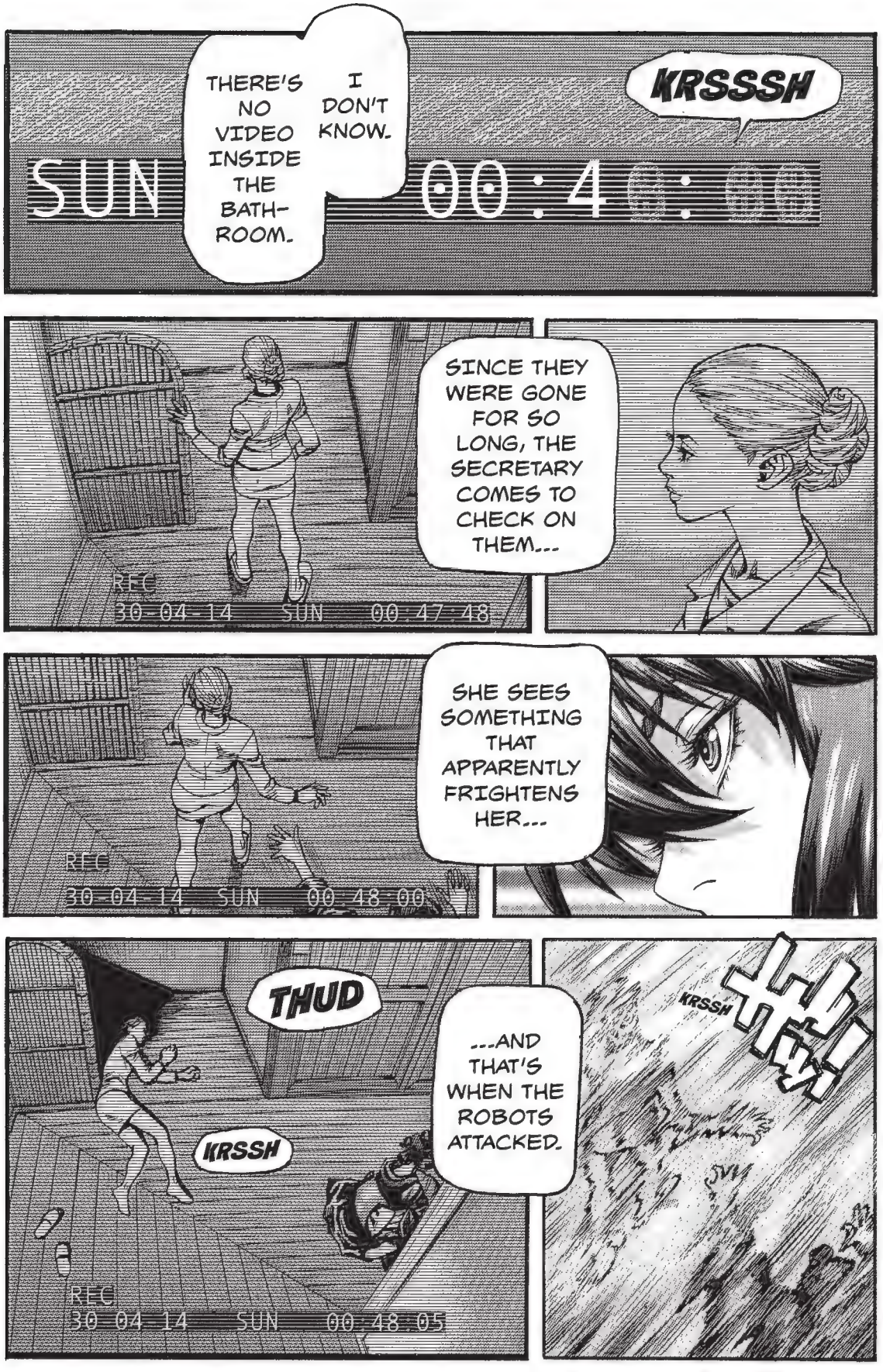


HERE ARE IMAGES...
...OF THE WILLOW ROOM IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT...
NH-a 1468
INCLUDING SOMETHING DISTURBING FROM INTERNAL SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS.
POP
SHOOH
HUMMM
CLICK

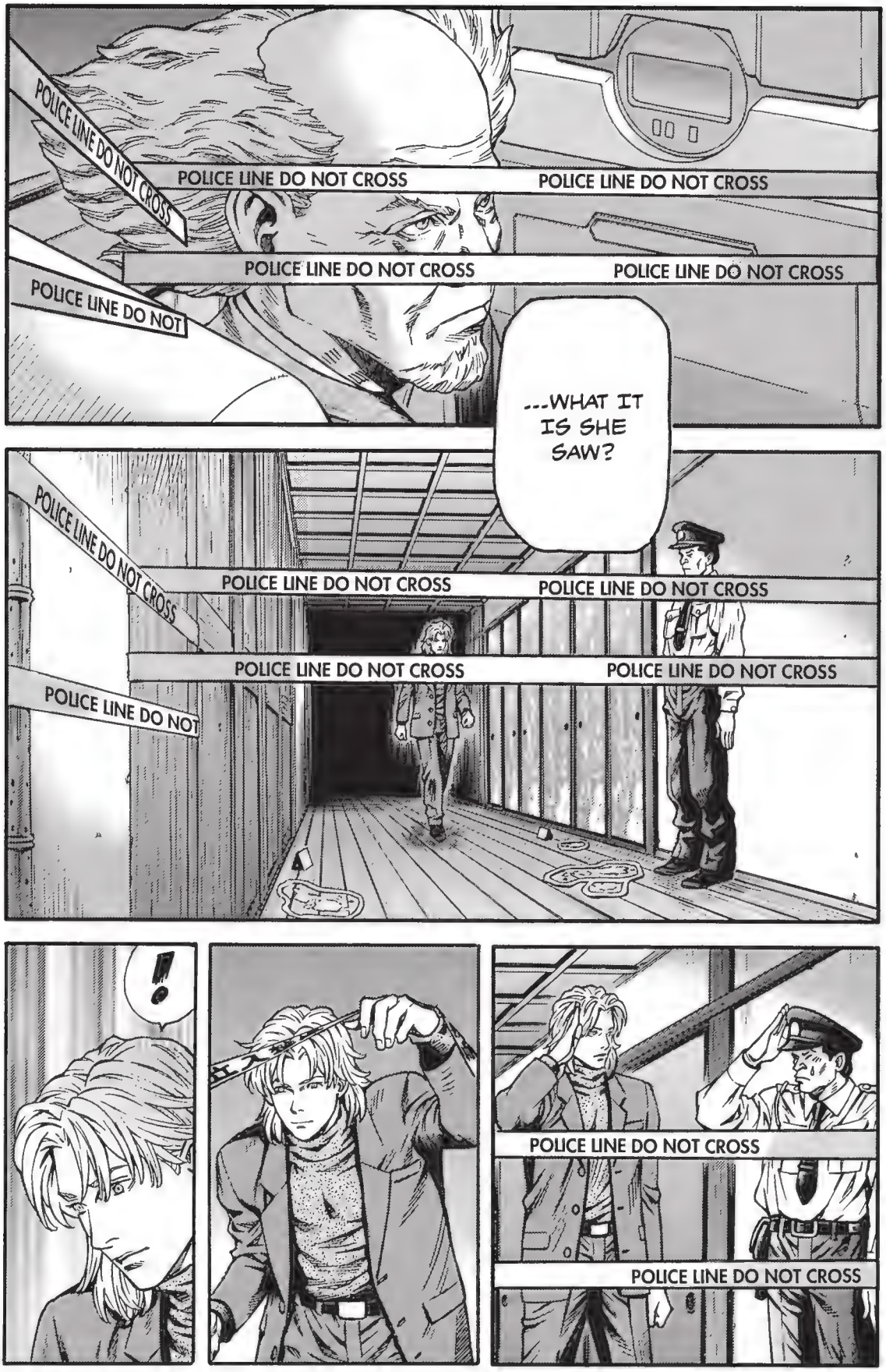

CLICK
OFFLINE
OFFLINE
OFFLINE
OFFLINE
KRSSH
CLICK
KRSSSH
ONLINE
ONLINE
PROTECTION LEVEL-7
REPORT FILE LEVEL-3
CLICK
CAUTION
SYSTEMLEVEL4
SYSTEMLEVEL3
SYSTEMLEVEL2
SYSTEMLEVEL1
CLICK
KRSSH

THE NAIPA AGENT WHO WAS KILLED...
...WAS EQUIPPED WITH A SPINAL COLUMN UNIT MADE BY THE NORTH AMERICAN NEUTRON COMPANY...
ONLINE
...BUT WHEN WE TRIED TO PUT THE BROKEN PIECES BACK TOGETHER, THEY DIDN'T FIT...
CLICK
CLICK
SYSTEM LEVEL 4
SYSTEM LEVEL 3
SYSTEM LEVEL 2
SYSTEM LEVEL 1
KRSSH
KRSSH
ONLINE
MISSING
SO WHERE'S THE REAL ONE?
IN OTHER WORDS... WE'VE DETERMINED THE CONTENTS OF THE BRAIN ARE FAKE.

KRSSH
POP
THEY WENT IN TO-GETHER?!
I'LL REWIND TO WHEN THE MINISTER AND THE GEISHA GO TO THE BATHROOM.
REC
30-04-14 SUN 00:41:07
THE INJURED SECRETARY IS PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS.
SHOW ME WHEN SHE WAS ATTACKED.
YES, APPAR-ENTLY...
...WHEN THE MINISTER GETS DRUNK HE ENJOYS SWITCH-ING BODIES WITH CYBER GEISHA.
A LITTLE LATER...
DOES HE LIKE SWITCHING BODIES, TOO?
...THE NAIPA AGENT WHO WAS KILLED ENTERS THE BATHROOM...
REC
30-04-14 SUN 00:41:22

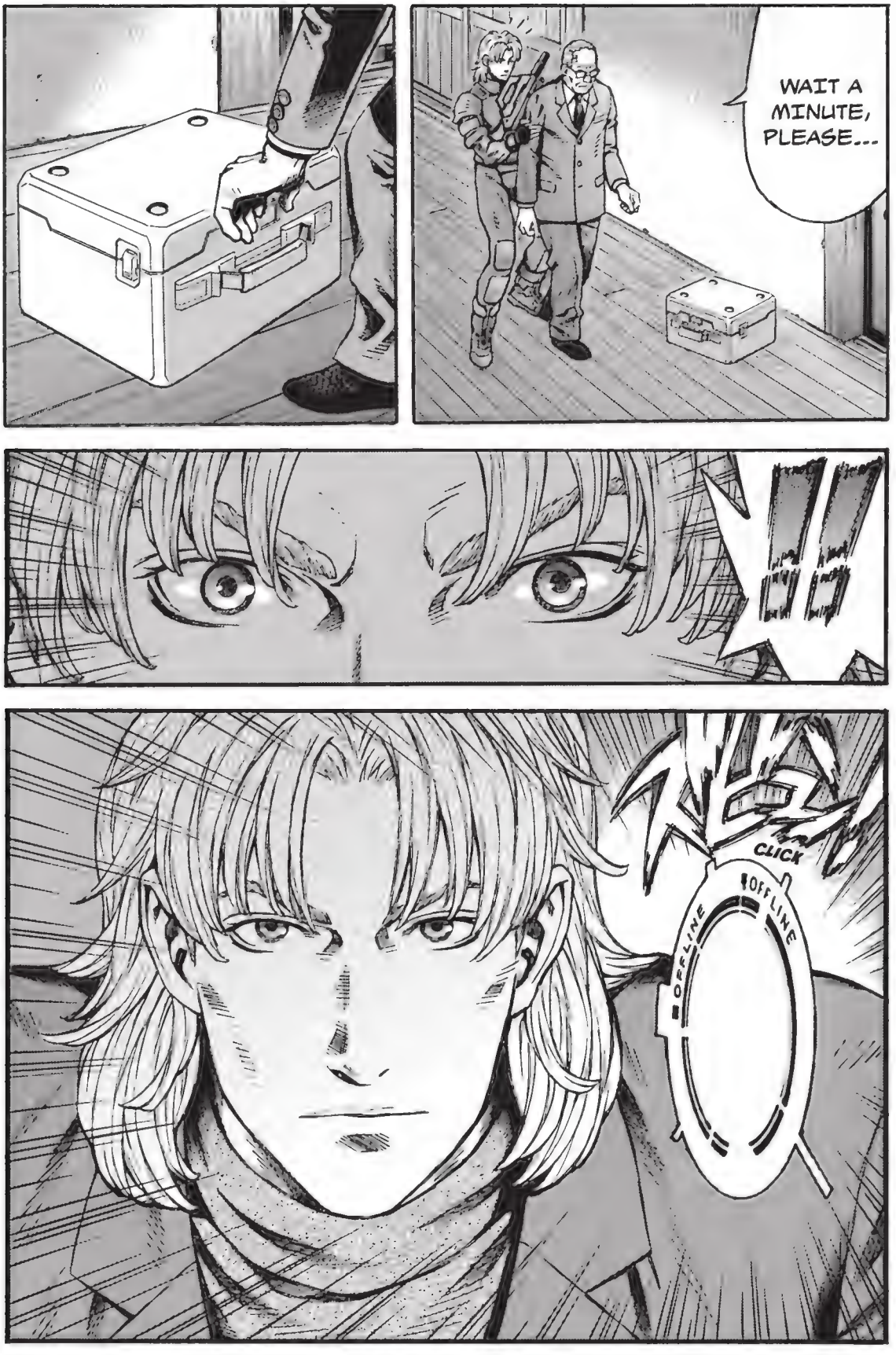

KRSSSH
SUN 00:46:00
THERE'S NO VIDEO INSIDE THE BATH-ROOM.
I DON'T KNOW.
REC 30 04 14 SUN 00 47 48
SINCE THEY WERE GONE FOR SO LONG, THE SECRETARY COMES TO CHECK ON THEM...
REC 30 04 14 SUN 00 48 00
SHE SEES SOMETHING THAT APPARENTLY FRIGHTENS HER...
THUD
KRSSH
REC 30 04 14 SUN 00 48 05
...AND THAT'S WHEN THE ROBOTS ATTACKED.
KRSSH

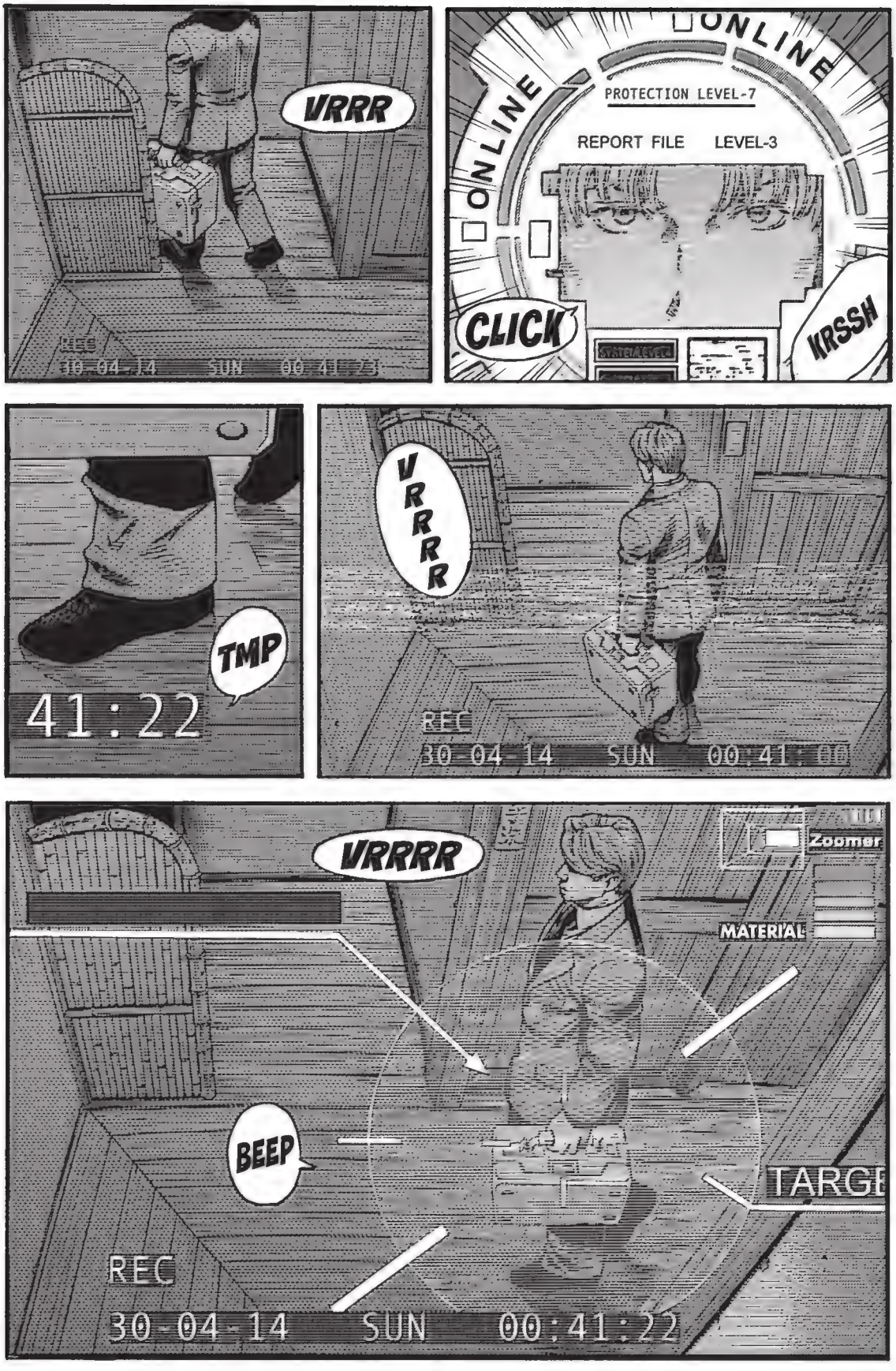
CLICK
ONLIN
REPORT FILE LEVEL-3
SYSTEM LEVEL4
SYSTEM LEVEL3
SO ACCORDING TO THE VIDEO...
...THE LAST ONE ATTACKED WAS THE SECRETARY.
BUT THAT'S NOT HOW THE RESCUED NAIPA AGENT TOLD IT.
CLICK
CLICK
THE DIRECTOR WAS QUITE DRUNK, BUT...
HE SAID THE LAST ONE ATTACKED WAS HIS COLLEAGUE.
I WONDER...
...HE TOLD THE POLICE HE THOUGHT THE FIRST SCREAM HE HEARD WAS THE SECRETARY'S.


POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
POLICE LINE DO NOT
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
POLICE LINE DO NOT
!
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

SO THIS IS THE BATH-ROOM...?

WHAT DID THE SECRETARY SEE...?
YES, I'M FINE...
CAN YOU STAND, MINISTER?

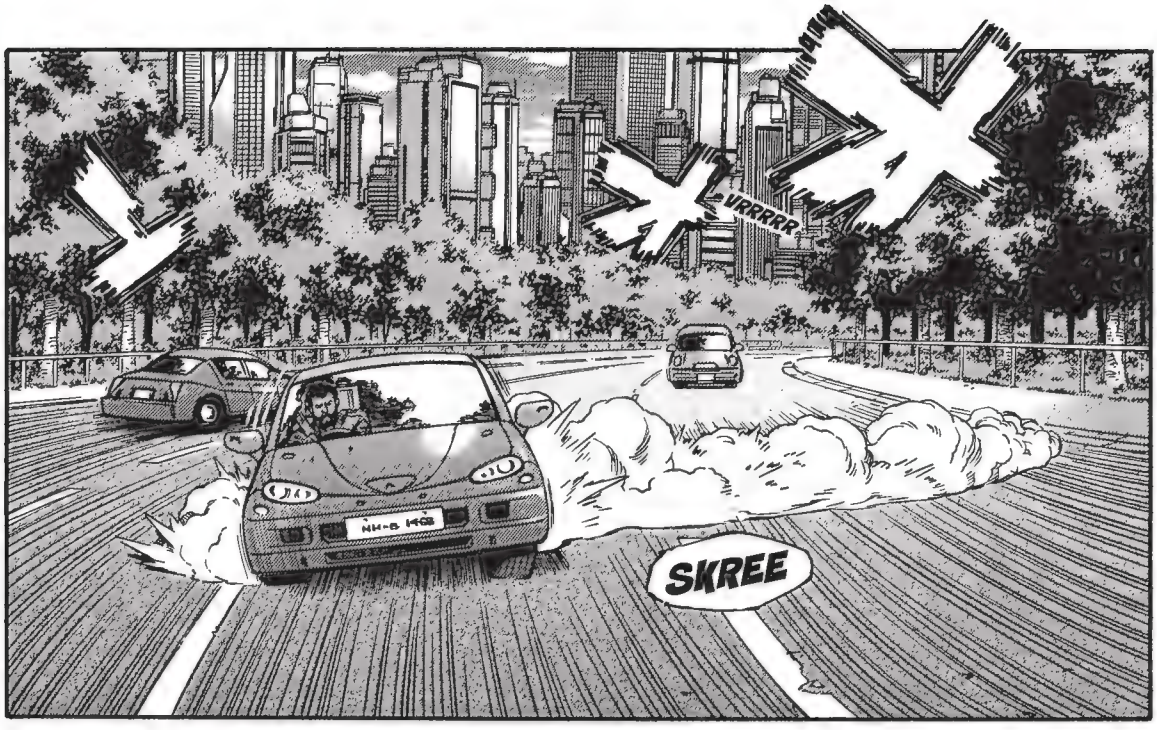

WAIT A MINUTE, PLEASE...
!!
CLICK
OFFLINE
OFFLINE

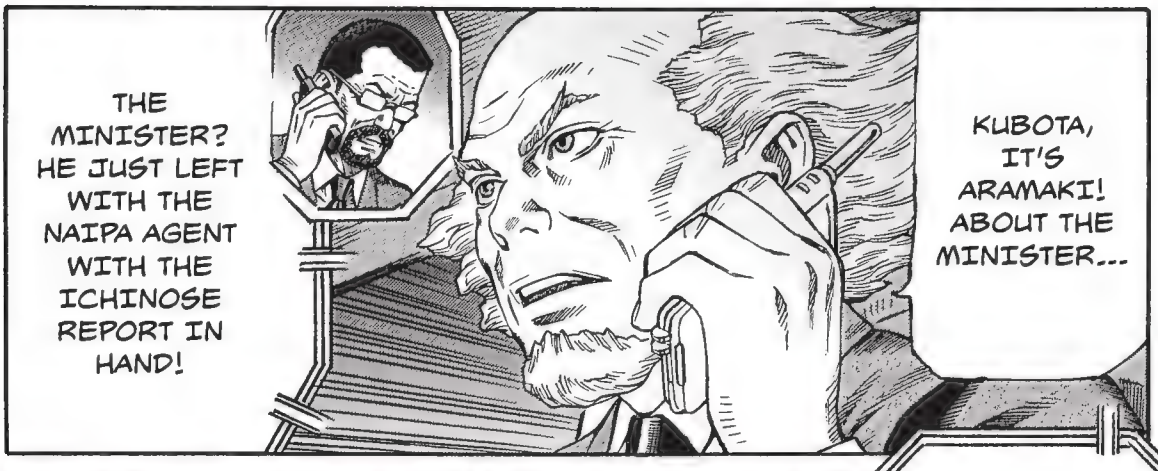

VRRR
REC
30-04-14 SUN 00:41:23
ONLINE
ONLINE
PROTECTION LEVEL-7
REPORT FILE LEVEL-3
CLICK
KRSSH
TMP
41:22
VRRRR
REC
30-04-14 SUN 00:41:00
VRRRR
Zoomer
MATERIAL
BEEP
TARGE
REC
30-04-14 SUN 00:41:22

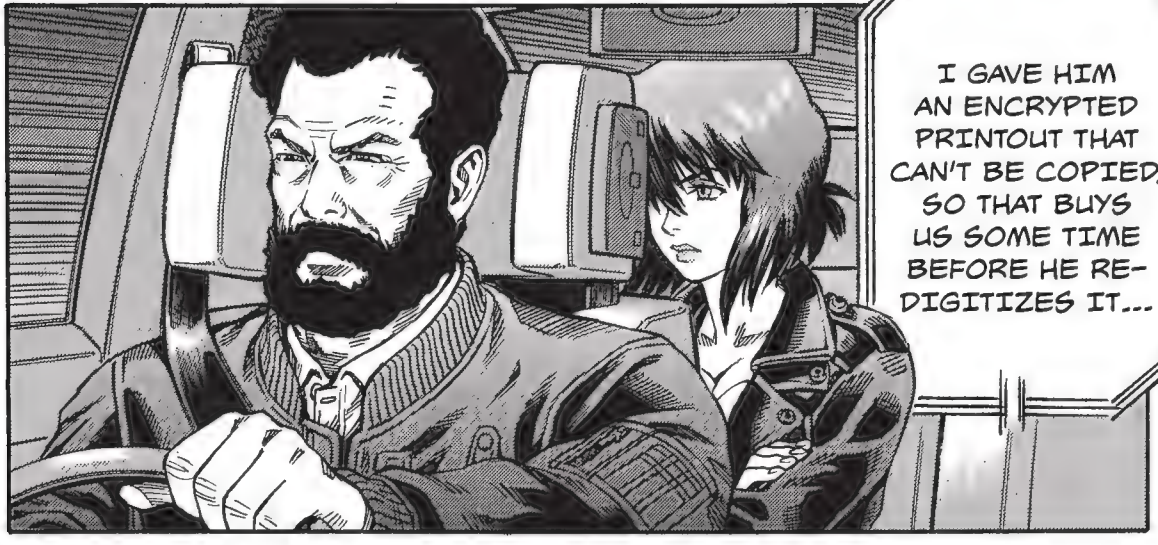
BEEP
×2.70
ZOOM UP
MA-
SHOOMU
!
MAJOR!
TOGUSA!

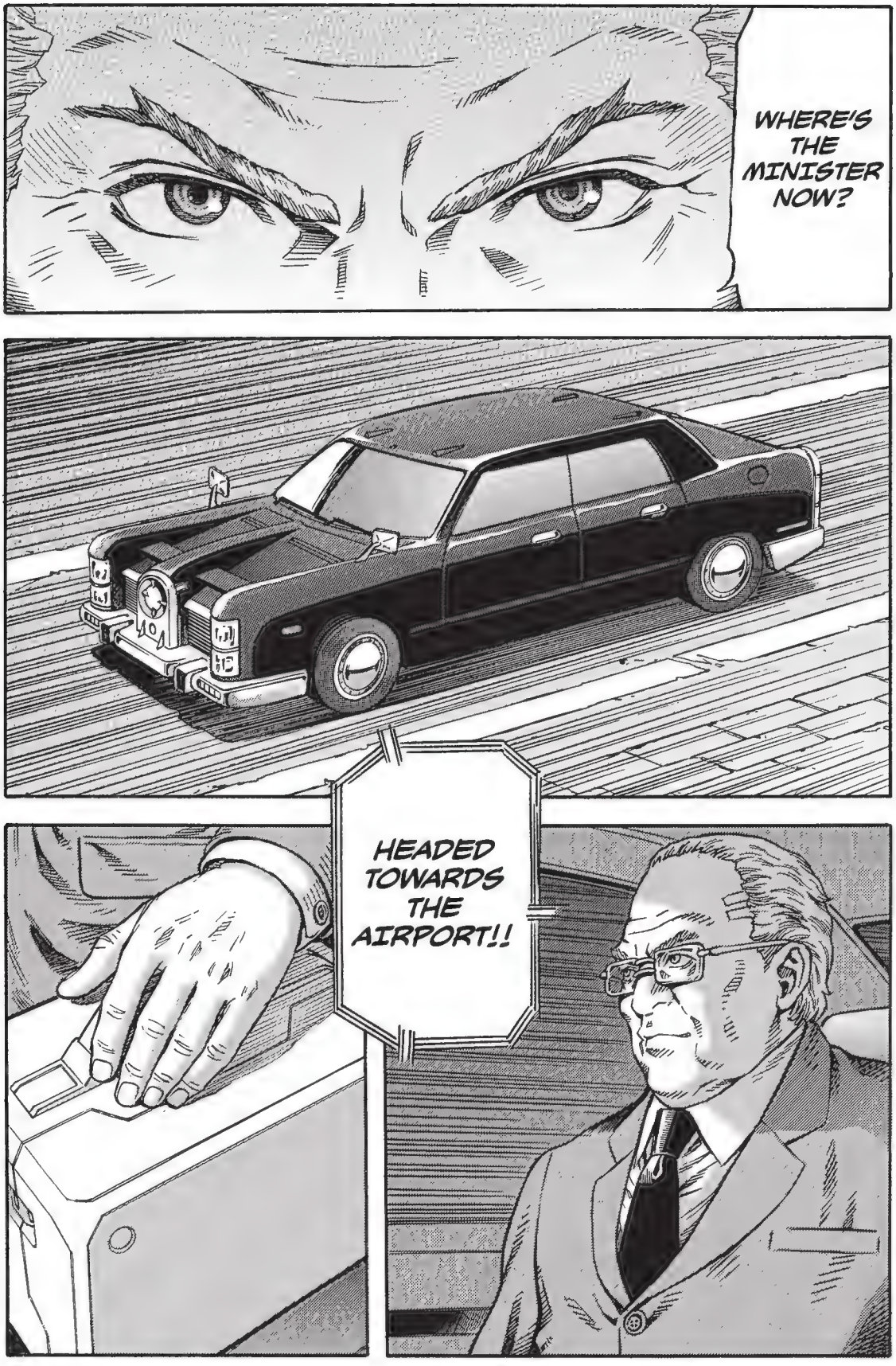
THE MINISTER LIKED TO EXCHANGE BODIES WITH CYBER GEISHA, RIGHT?!
WHAT ABOUT IT?
WHAT IF SOMEONE SWAPPED OUT THE MINISTER'S BRAIN-CASE?!
SHOOM
IF THE ENEMY'S AFTER THE ICHINOSE REPORT, WOULDN'T HE WANT THE APPEARANCE OF THE MINISTER?
HE'D WANT TO LOOK LIKE HIM!
ONLINE
ONLINE

ISHI-KAWA!
RIGHT NOW THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS AN IMPOSTOR!!
THE SECRETARY SAW THE MINISTER'S BRAINCASE BEING SWITCHED!!
TURN
CRANK
SKREEE
SKREE
NH-a1468


VRRRRR
SKREE


KUBOTA, IT'S ARAMAKI! ABOUT THE MINISTER...
THE MINISTER? HE JUST LEFT WITH THE NAIPA AGENT WITH THE ICHINOSE REPORT IN HAND!


I GAVE HIM AN ENCRYPTED PRINTOUT THAT CAN'T BE COPIED, SO THAT BUYS US SOME TIME BEFORE HE RE-DIGITIZES IT...


WHERE'S THE MINISTER NOW?
HEADED TOWARDS THE AIRPORT!!

VROOOOH
NH-a
HE'S HEADED TO AMERICA ON A PRIVATE JET...
VROOM
SKREEE
SKREE
NH-a 1468
...FOR A NAIPA PARTY!

BATŌ!!
EMER-
GENCY
MOBILIZA-
TION
WITH L2
LOADOUT!
VRRROOOM
WE NEED TO
GET THE FAKE
MINISTER
BEFORE HE
FLEES THE
COUNTRY!!

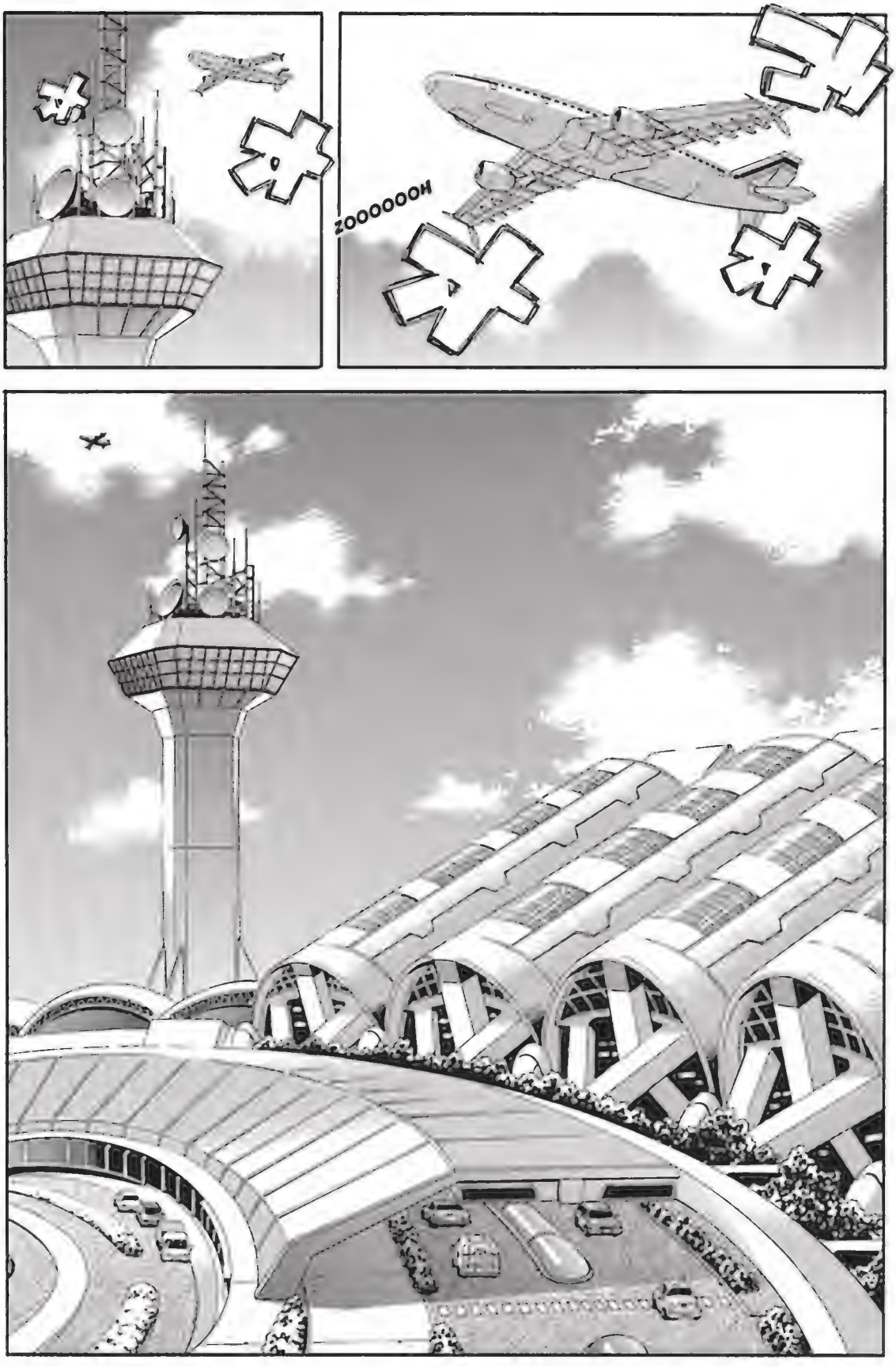
#008 / End

#009: Classified

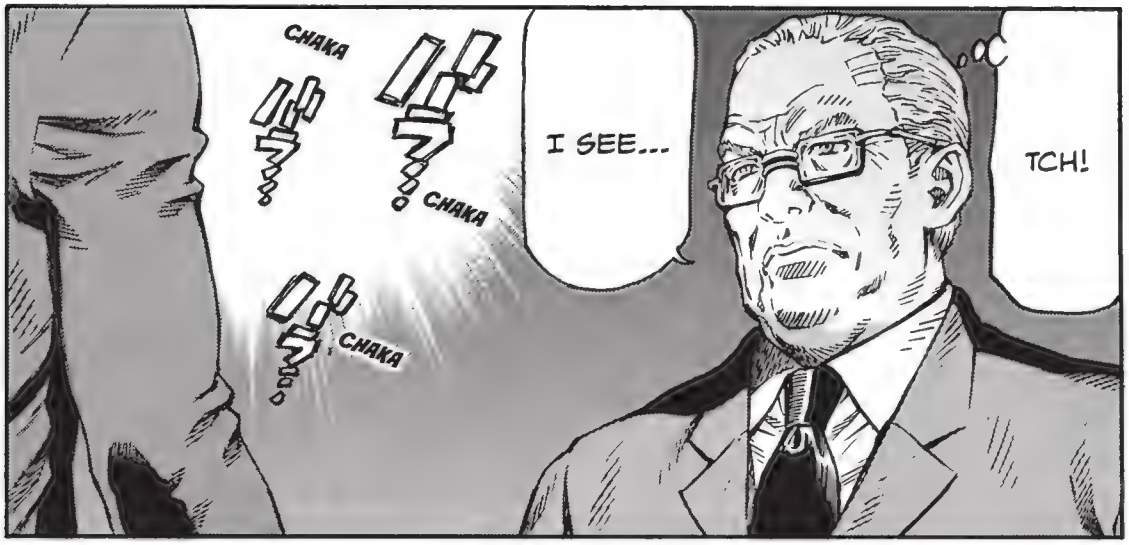
HE JUST LEFT WITH THE NAIPA AGENT WITH THE ICHINOSE REPORT IN HAND!
KUBOTA, IT'S ARAMAKI!
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE MINISTER?
NH-a 1468
WHERE'S THE IMPOSTER NOW?
HEADING TOWARDS THE AIRPORT!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

HE'S HEADED TO AMERICA ON A PRIVATE JET...
...FOR A NAIPA PARTY!
WONDER IF WE'LL MAKE IT...
HE'S TRYING TO GET AWAY.
I GAVE HIM AN ENCRYPTED PRINTOUT THAT CAN'T BE COPIED, SO THAT BUYS US SOME TIME BEFORE HE RE-DIGITIZES IT...
WE CAN'T COUNT ON IT. WE'LL TAKE OVER FROM HERE.

PICK UP TOGUSA AND SAITŌ AND HEAD TOWARDS THE AIRPORT!
BATŌ!! EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION WITH L2 LOADOUT!
WE NEED TO CATCH THE FAKE MINISTER BEFORE HE FLEES THE COUNTRY...
...AND GET THAT ICHINOSE REPORT BACK!


ZOOOOOOH

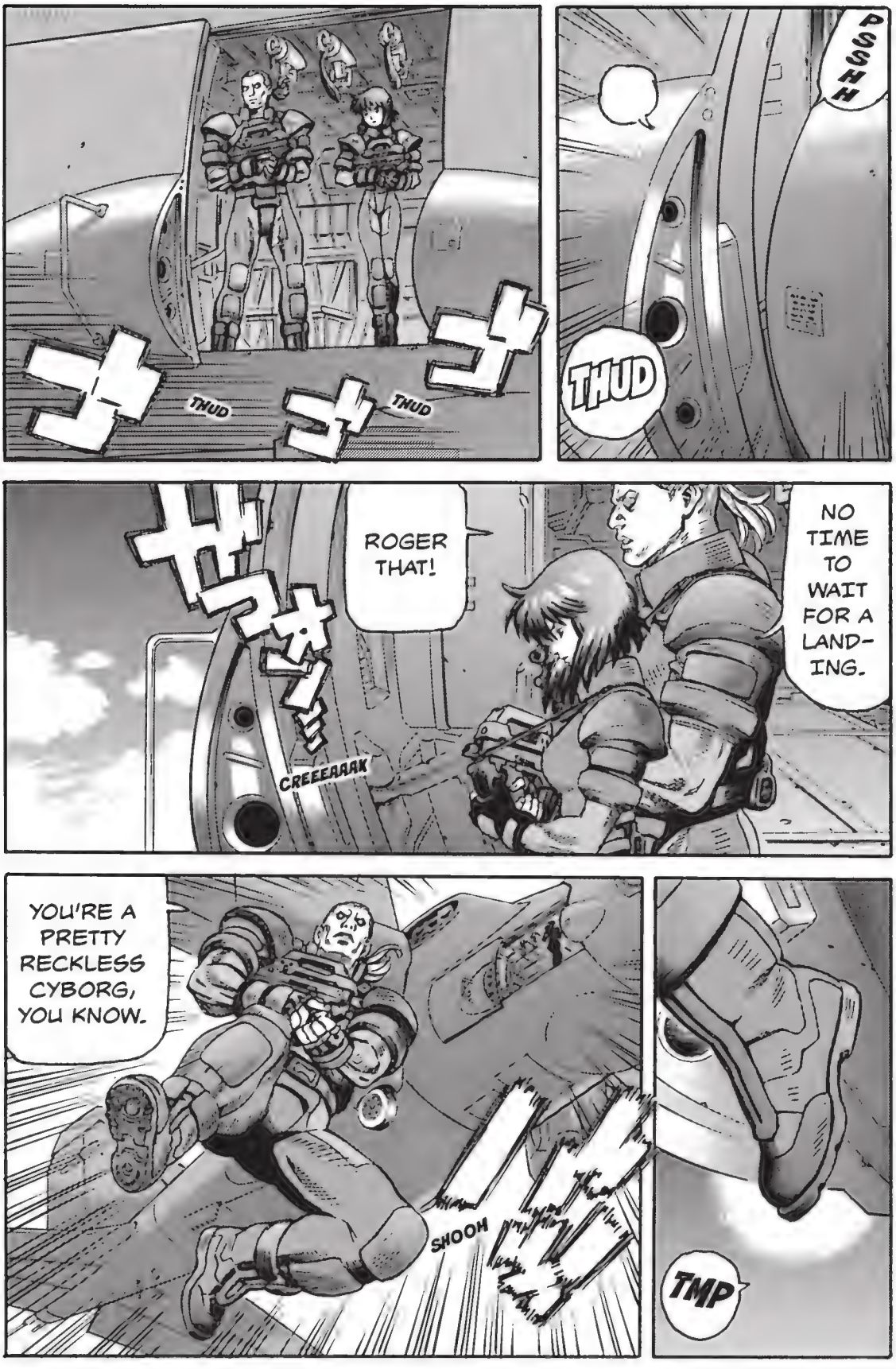
TMP
EVERYTHING READY FOR DEPARTURE?
YES.
TMP
M-MINIS-TER!
TMP
TMP
TMP
...BUT THE FLIGHT HAS BEEN DELAYED FOR ABOUT FIFTEEN MIN-UTES DUE TO BAD WEATHER!
I-I'M SORRY...
TMP

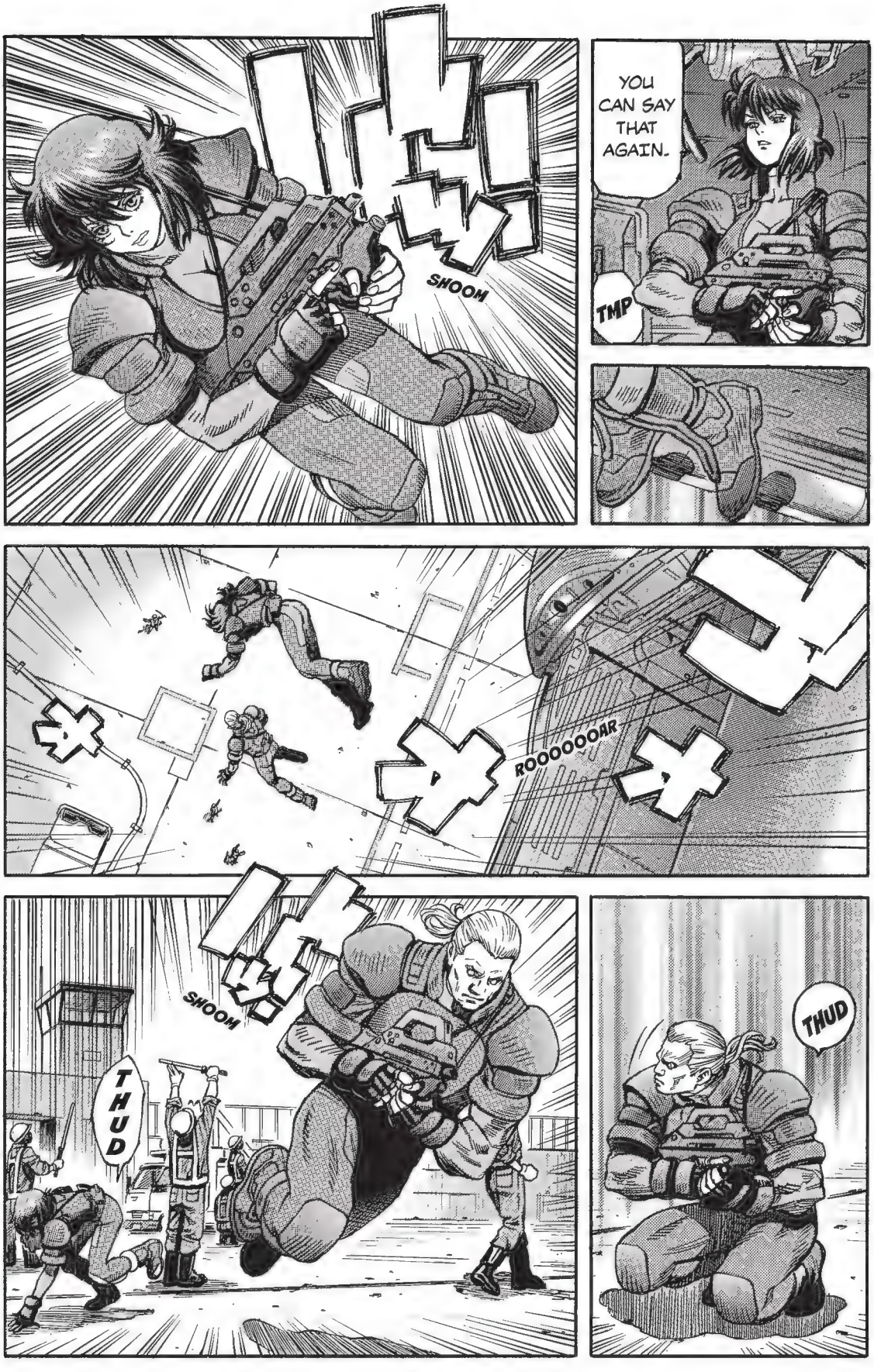

CHAKA
CHAKA
CHAKA
I SEE...
TCH!

CHAKA
CHAKA

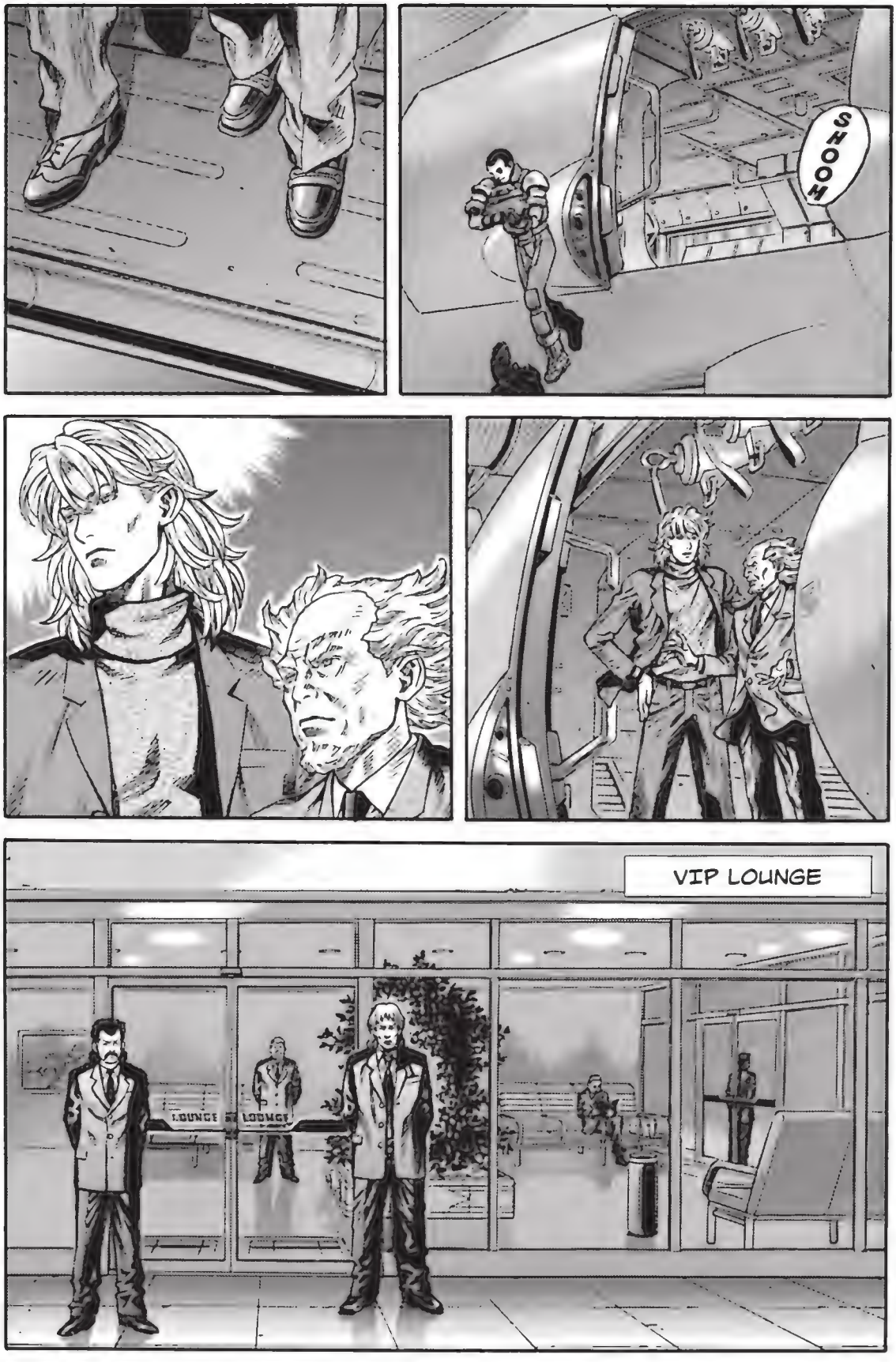
CHAKA
CHAKA
CHAKA

CHAKA
CHAKA


THUD
THUD
PSSHH
THUD
ROGER THAT!
NO TIME TO WAIT FOR A LAND-ING.
CREEEAAAK
YOU'RE A PRETTY RECKLESS CYBORG, YOU KNOW.
SHOOM
TMP


SHOOM
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.
TMP
ROOOOOOAR
SHOOM
THUD
THUD

SHOOM
TMP
HURRY!
FOOM
FOOM
FOOM
FOOM
TMP


SHOOM
VIP LOUNGE
LOUNGE
LOUNGE

EMERGENCY MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC TACTICS

ICHINOSE REPORT

ICHINOSE REPORT
MILITARY SELF-DEFENSE FORCE

125 7897

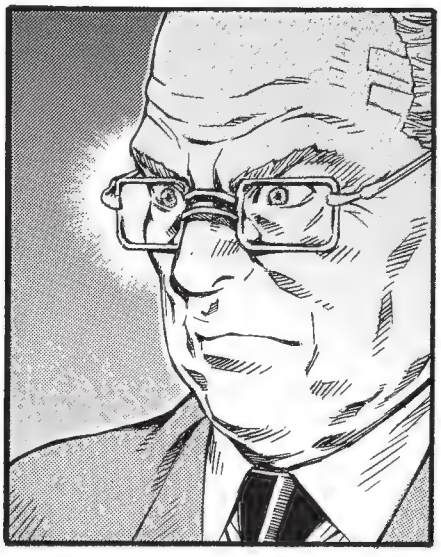
FLAP

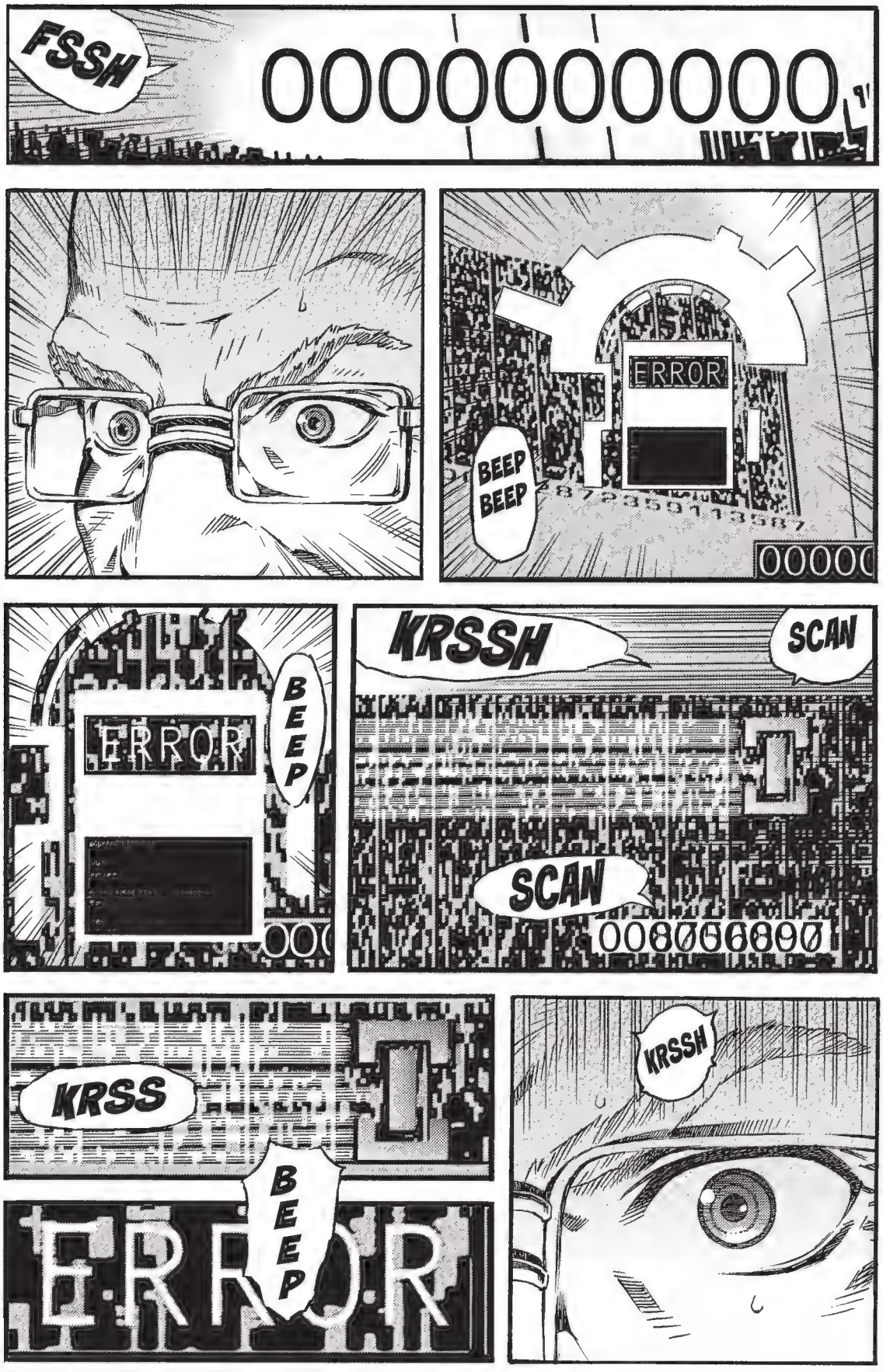
SCAN

KRRSSH

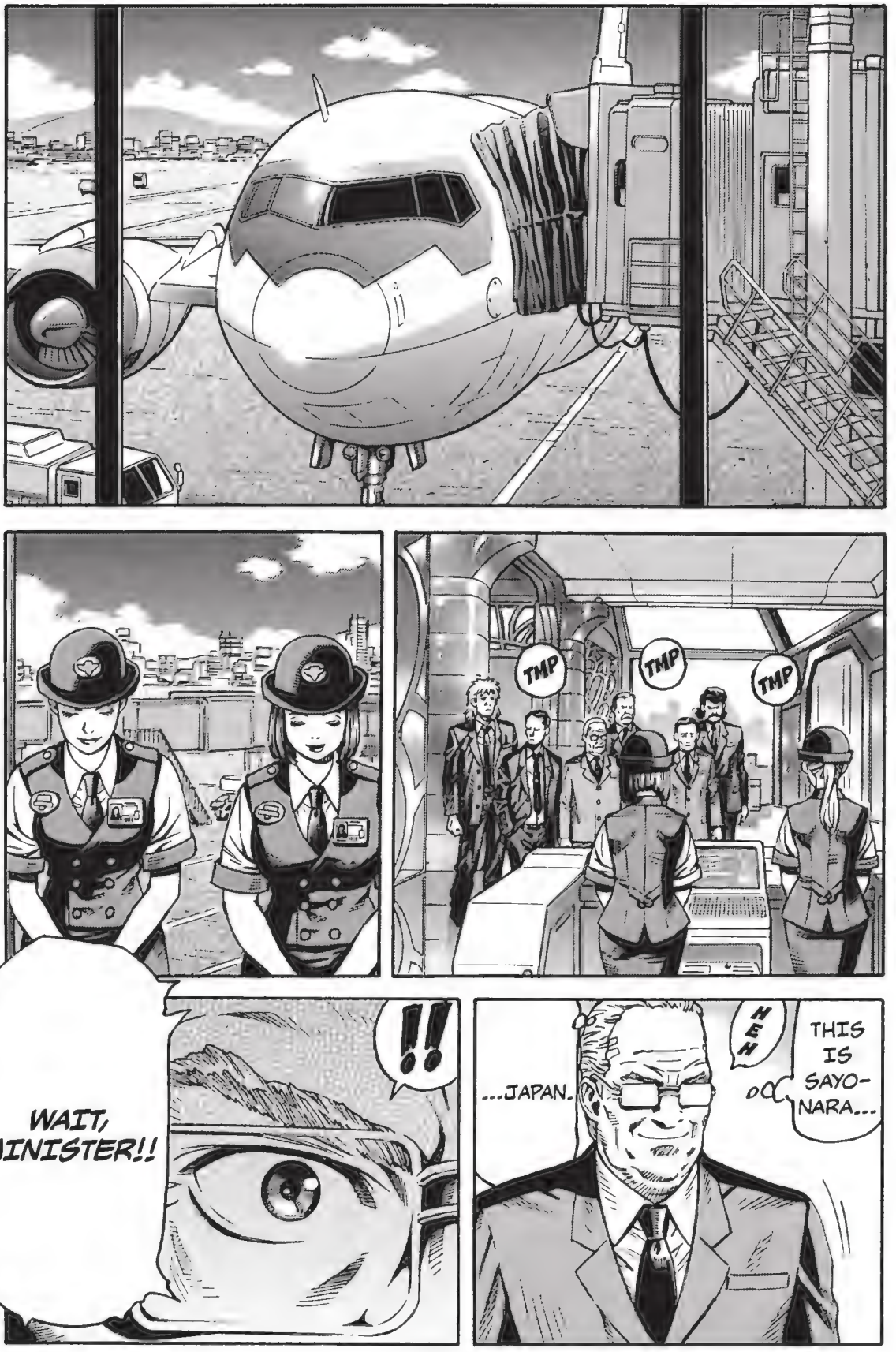
125-7897

SCAN



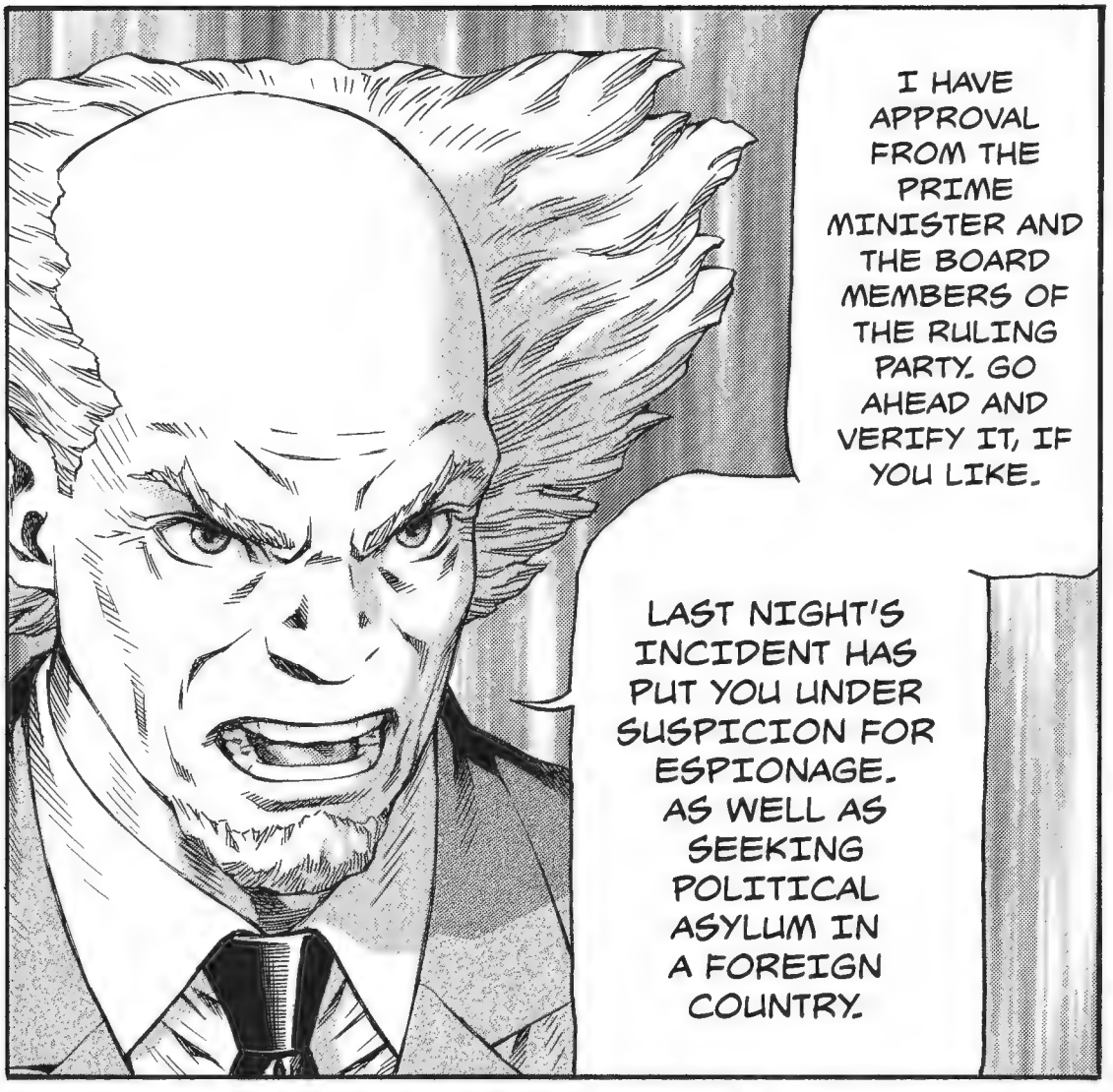

FSSH
0000000000
ERROR
BEEP
BEEP
ERROR
BEEP
KRSSH
SCAN
SCAN
KRSS
BEEP
ERROR
KRSSH

SCAN SCAN
DAMN IT!
SCAN
DAMN...
DIRECTED BY X.X. MADE IN GERMANY Carl Zeiss LENS
S-SORRY FOR THE WAIT!
GASP
MINISTER!
I SEE...
SLAM
LET'S GO, THEN.
.....
THE PRIVATE JET IS READY NOW!


TMP
TMP
TMP
THIS IS SAYO-NARA...
HEH
...JAPAN.
!!
WAIT, MINISTER!!

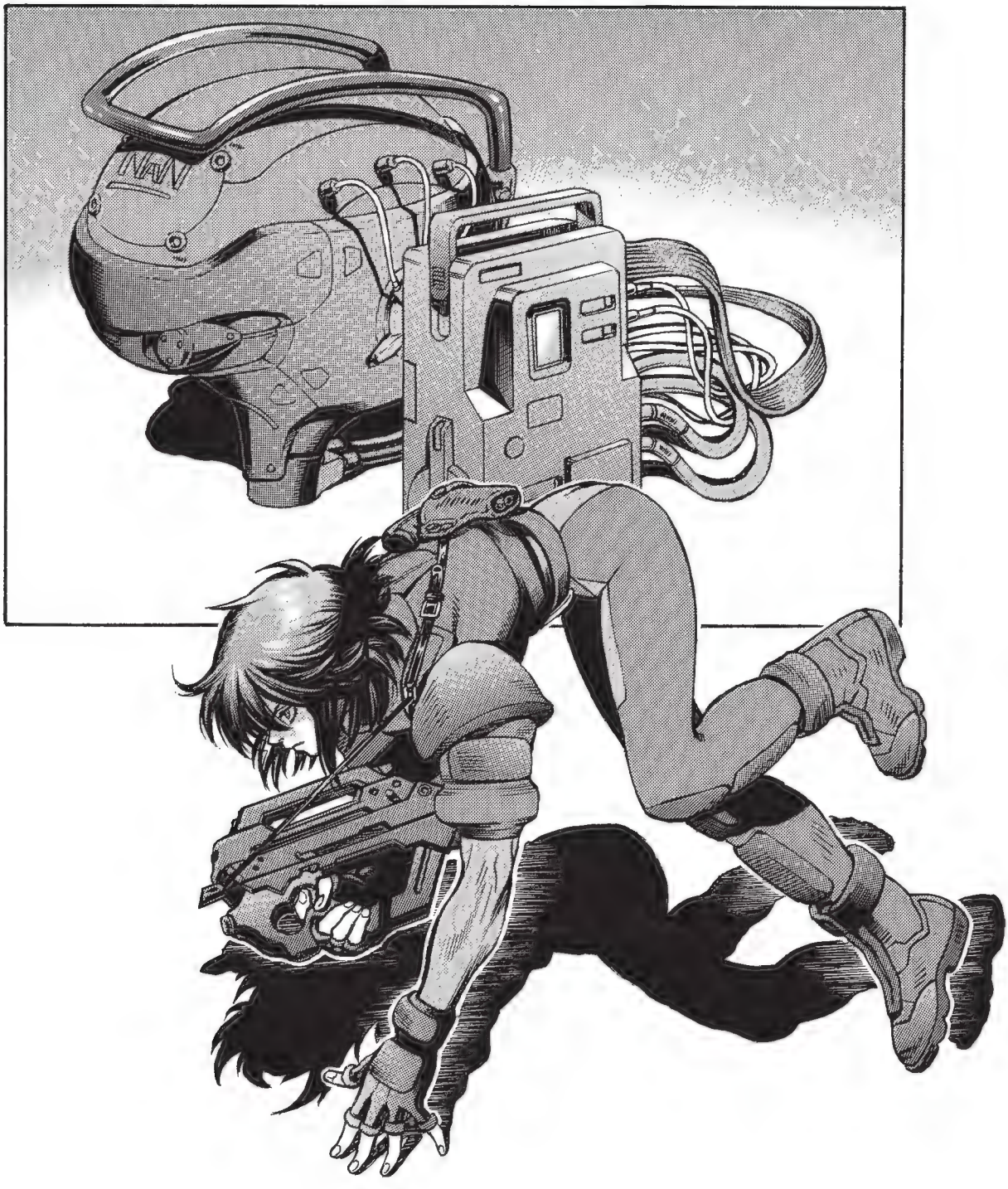
TMP
TMP
TMP
CAME TO GIVE YOU THIS.
FLAP
WHAT'S WRONG?
OH, ARA-MAKI.

RUSTLE
WHAT'S THIS?
THUNK
WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?!
"ORDERS FOR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE DUE TO MEDICAL TREATMENT"?
NOW THAT YOU'VE READ THAT, YOU ARE NO LONGER THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
WHAT? BY WHOSE AUTHORITY?!

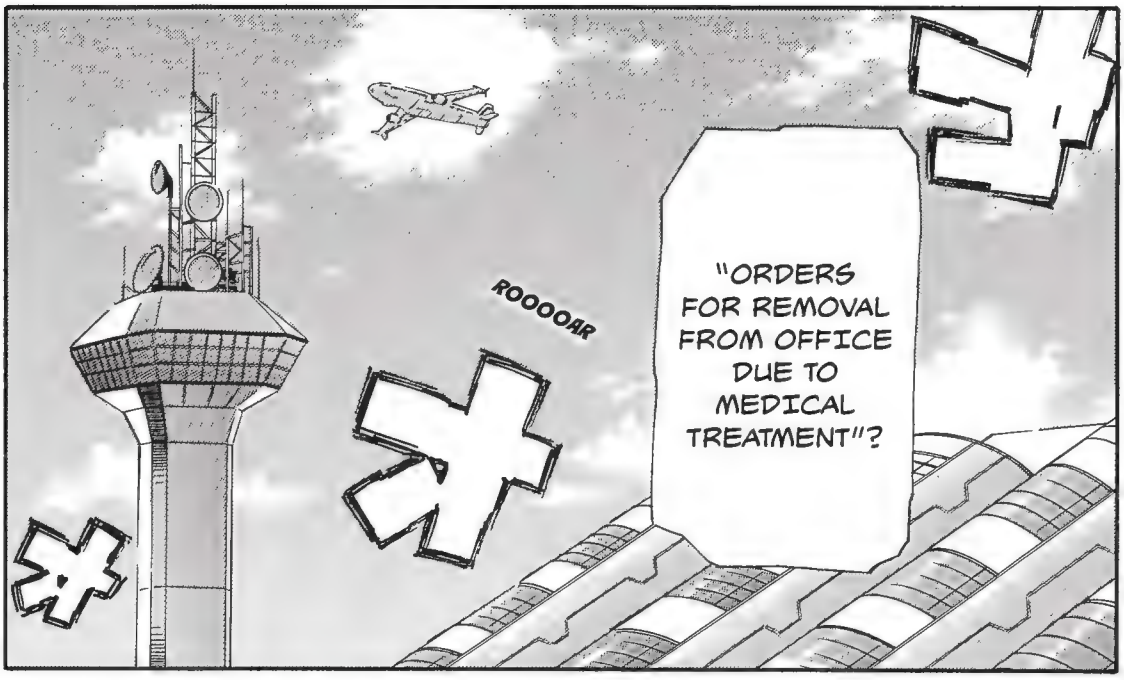

I HAVE APPROVAL FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE RULING PARTY. GO AHEAD AND VERIFY IT, IF YOU LIKE.
LAST NIGHT'S INCIDENT HAS PUT YOU UNDER SUSPICION FOR ESPIONAGE. AS WELL AS SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

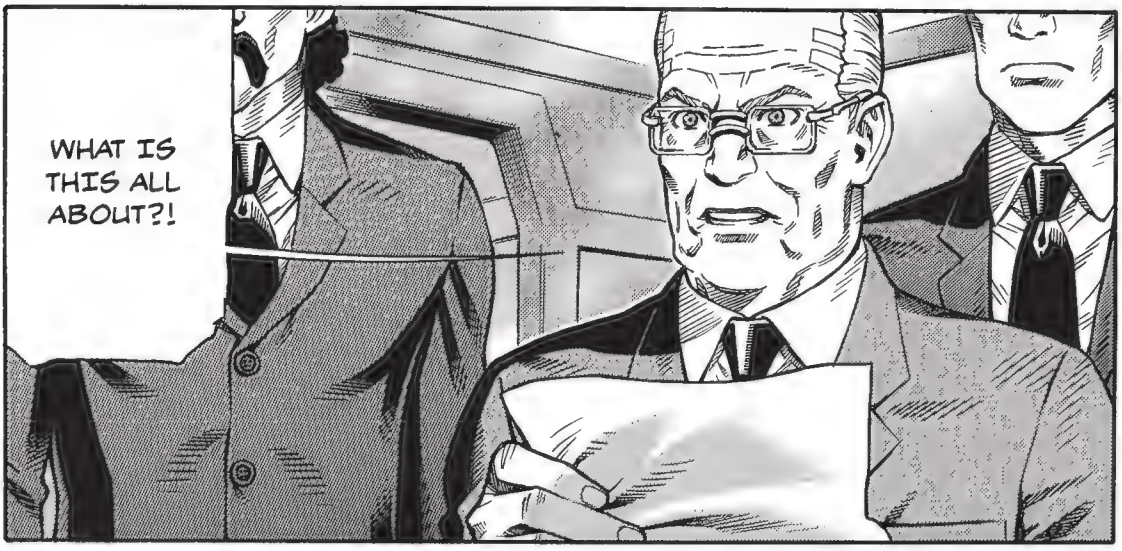
GLARE
WILL YOU COME WITH ME?

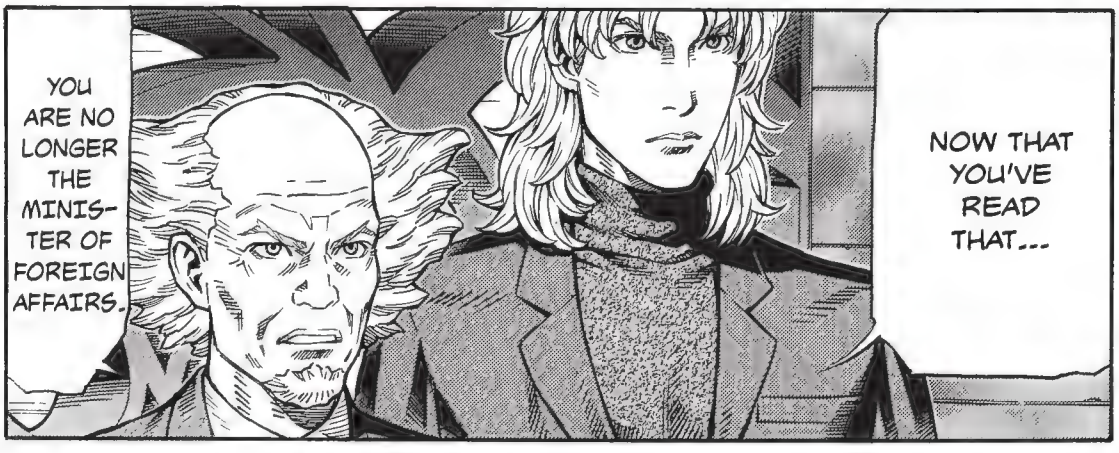
#009 / End

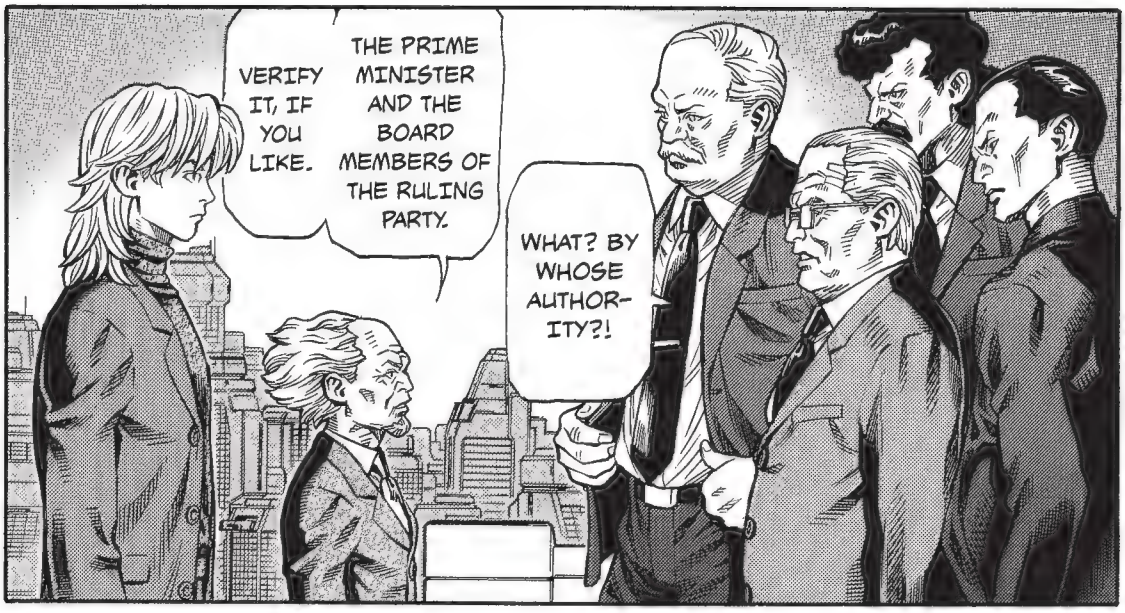


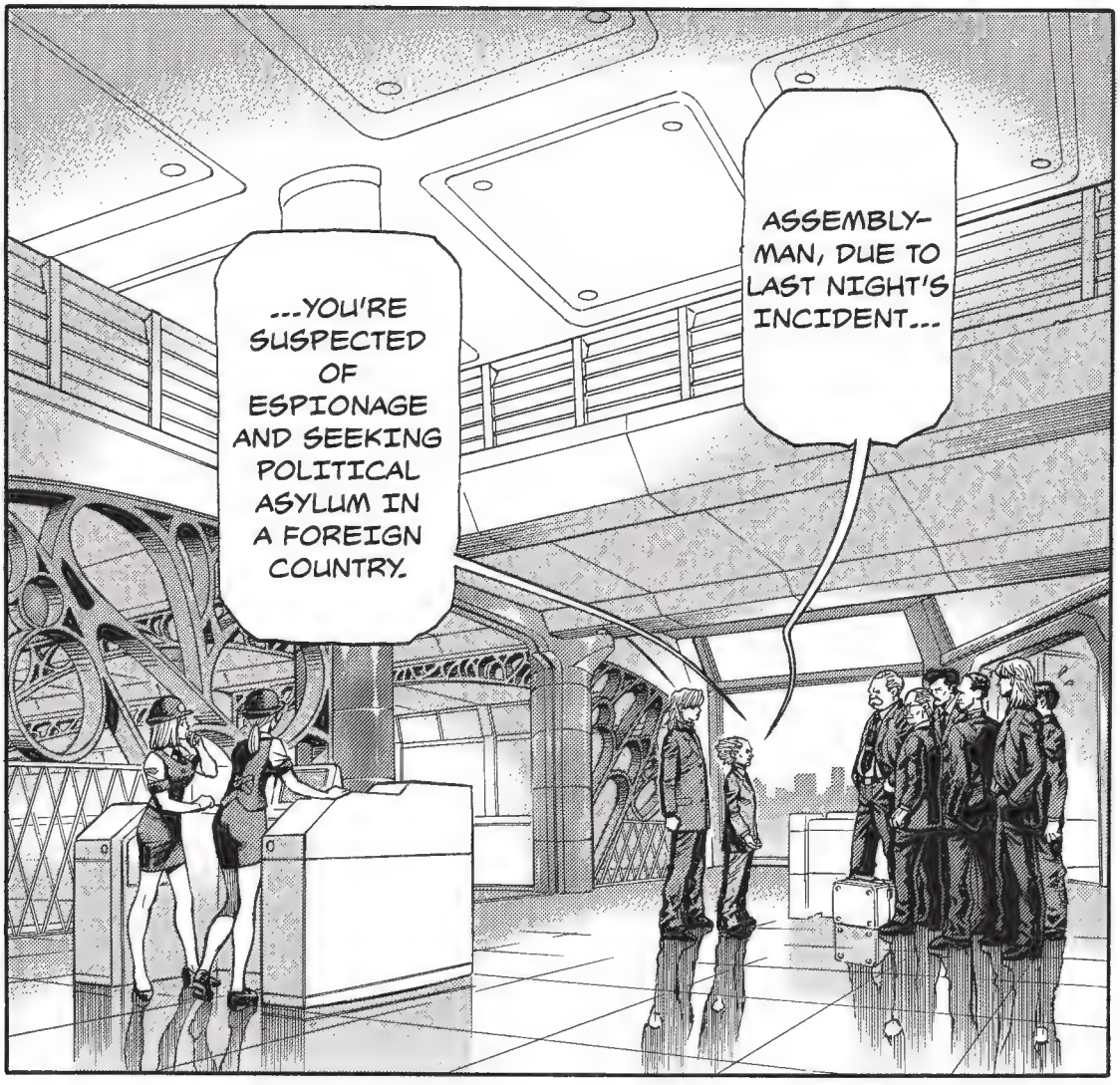
#010: Impostor


ROOOOAR
"ORDERS FOR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE DUE TO MEDICAL TREATMENT"?


WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?!

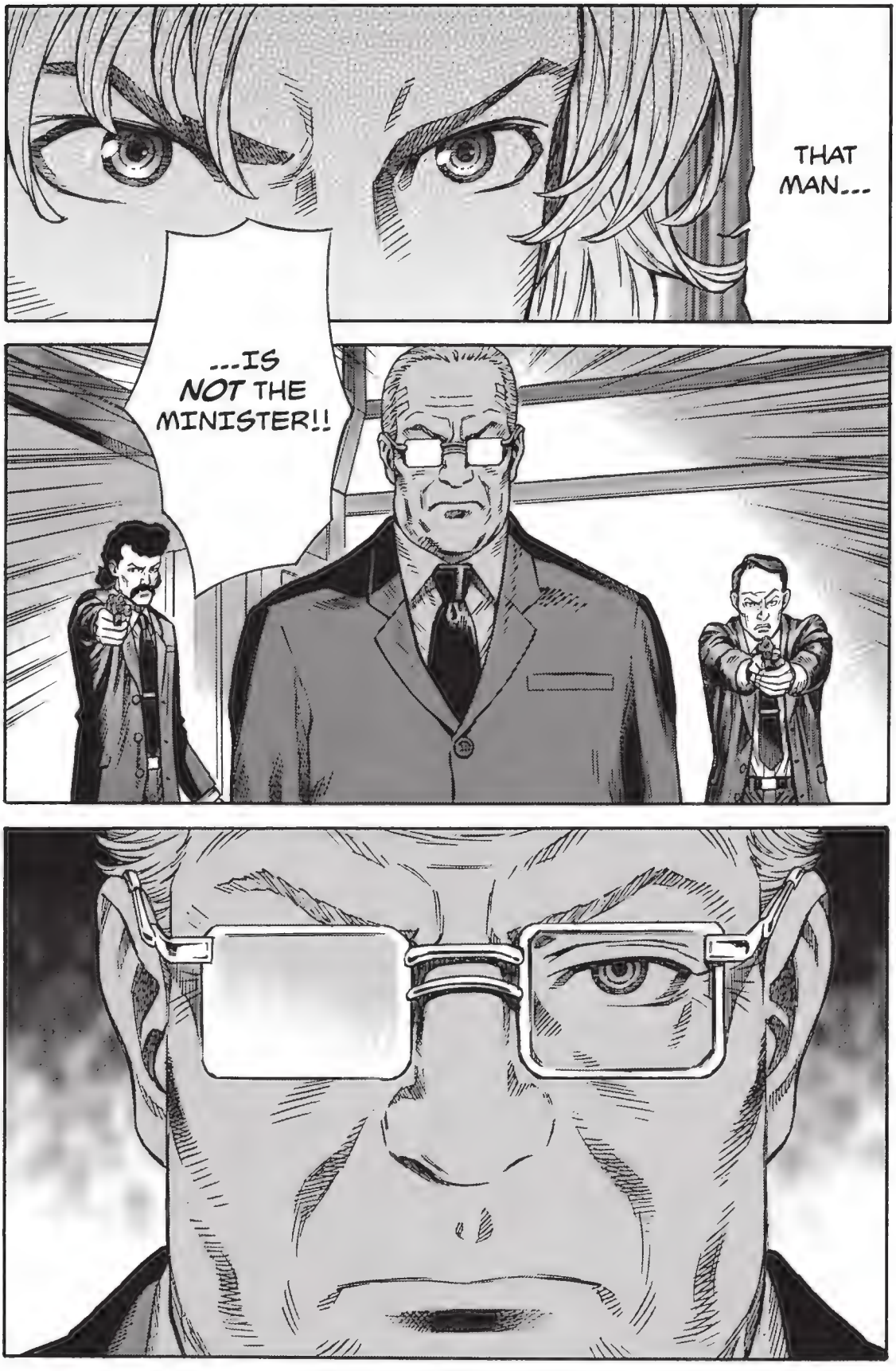

YOU ARE NO LONGER THE MINIS-TER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
NOW THAT YOU'VE READ THAT...


VERIFY IT, IF YOU LIKE.
THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE RULING PARTY.
WHAT? BY WHOSE AUTHOR-ITY?!


...YOU'RE SUSPECTED OF ESPIONAGE AND SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY.
ASSEMBLY-MAN, DUE TO LAST NIGHT'S INCIDENT...

YOU BAS-TARD...
CLENCH
COME WITH ME, PLEASE.
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
CLICK
CLICK
CHIEF, GET BACK!
CLICK
CLICK
SHOOM
CLICK

CLICK
STOP!


THAT MAN...
...IS *NOT* THE MINISTER!!

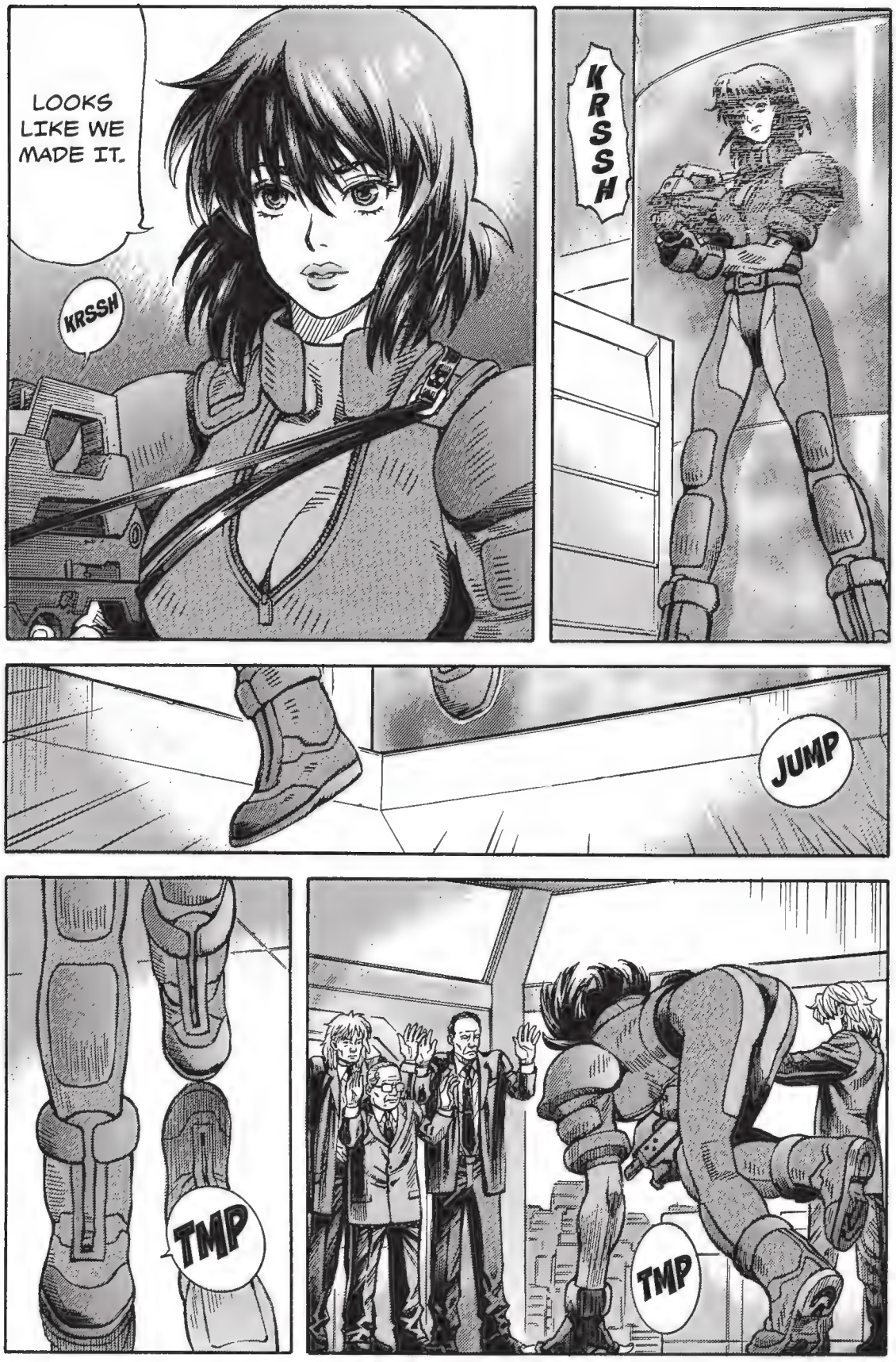
!?
HUH?
POP
POP
THUD
CRACK
UGH!
CHING
POP
WHA?!
W-WHERE'S IT COMING FROM?
CLICK

DON'T SHOOT!
D-DON'T...
KRSSH
KRSSH
KRSSH
...FIGHT THEM...

AH...
POP
SHOOOM
TMP
KRSSH
KRSSH
KRSSH

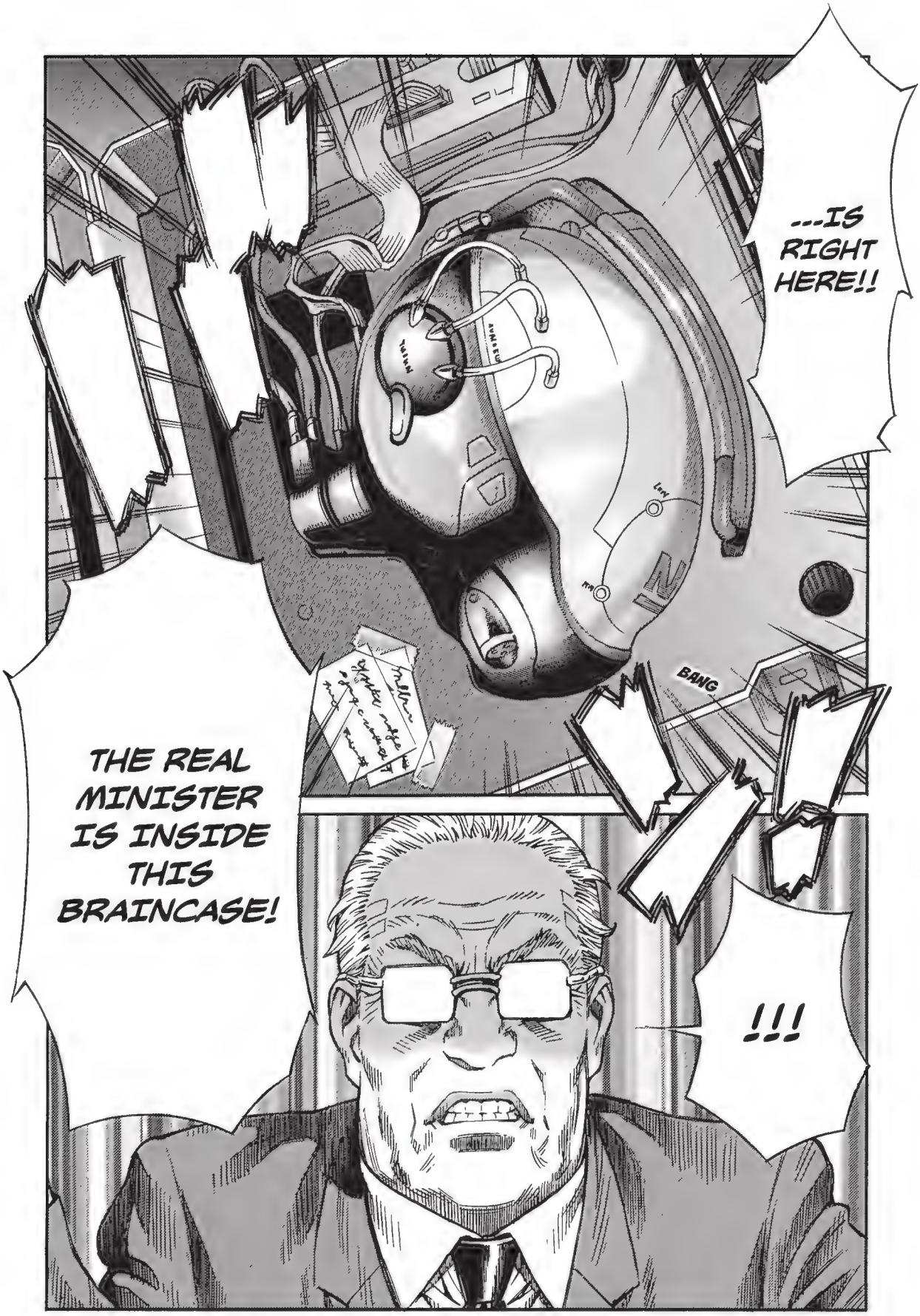
KRSSH
KRSSH
HUH?
KRSSH
KYAAAH!

N-NO PROB-LEM...
OH...
SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
IT'S OVER.
MAJOR KUSANAGI!
NOW THE LAST ISSUE...
KRSSH
KRSSH
KRSSH
KRSSH

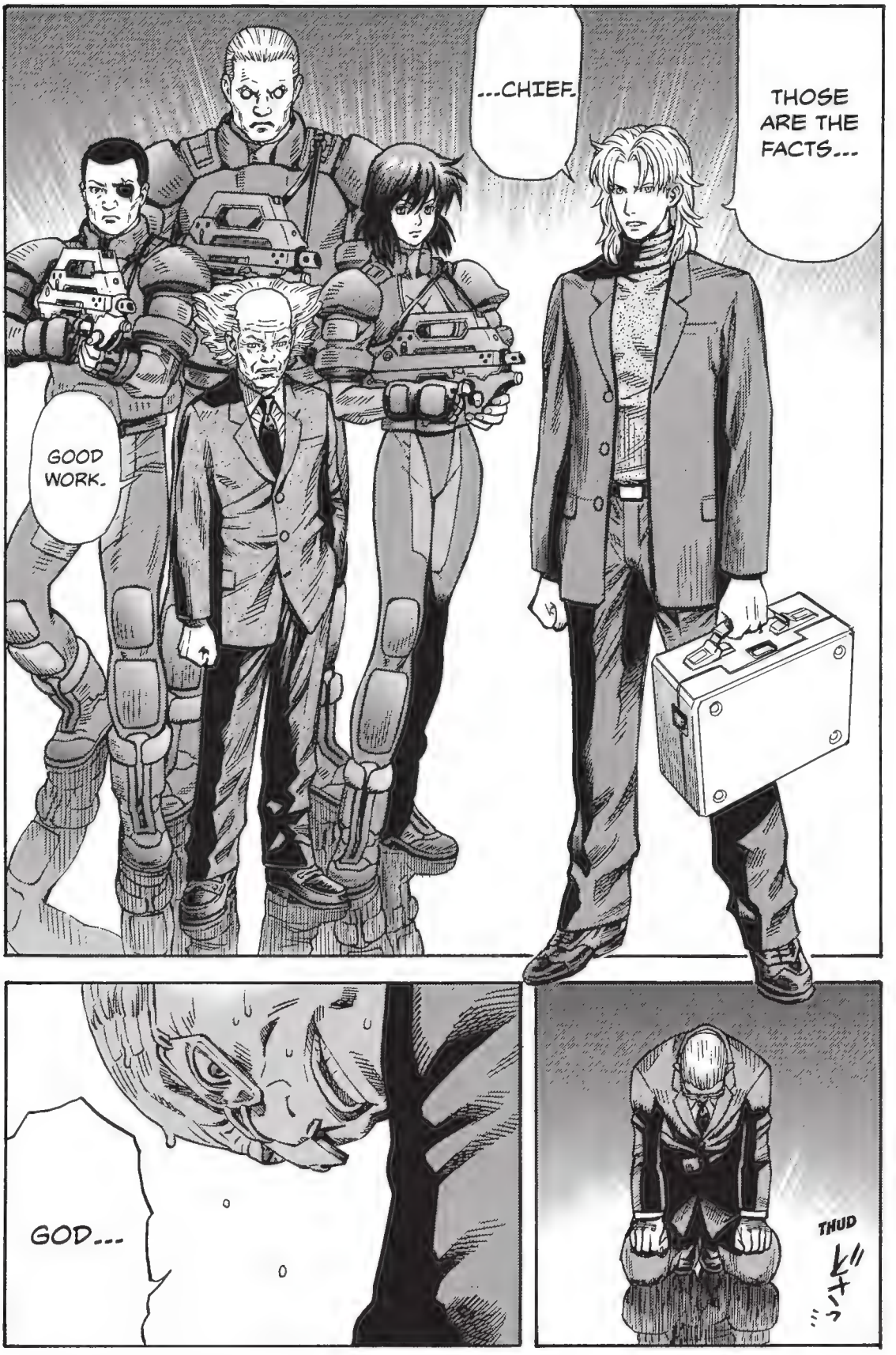

LOOKS LIKE WE MADE IT.
KRSSH
KRSSH
JUMP
TMP
TMP

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
WE'RE FROM SECTION 9.
TMP
TMP
W-WAIT!
TMP
TMP
TMP
.....?
SEC-TION 9?!

RIGHT!
TOGUSA!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THIS ISN'T HIM?!
I'M THE MINISTER'S SECRETARY!
WAIT, PLEASE!
TMP
YOU'RE NOT THE MINISTER.
TMP
BECAUSE THE REAL MINISTER...
THUD


...IS RIGHT HERE!!
BANG
THE REAL MINISTER IS INSIDE THIS BRAINCASE!
!!!

UGHH...
CLENCH
CLENCH
...AND SWAPPED BRAINS WITH THE MINISTER.
...TO GET THE ICHINOSE REPORT...
CLENCH
YOU'RE THE OTHER NAIPA AGENT. YOU FAKED YOUR OWN DEATH...
THUD
YOU'RE AN IMPOSTOR!
TMP


GOOD WORK.
...CHIEF.
THOSE ARE THE FACTS...
GOD...
THUD

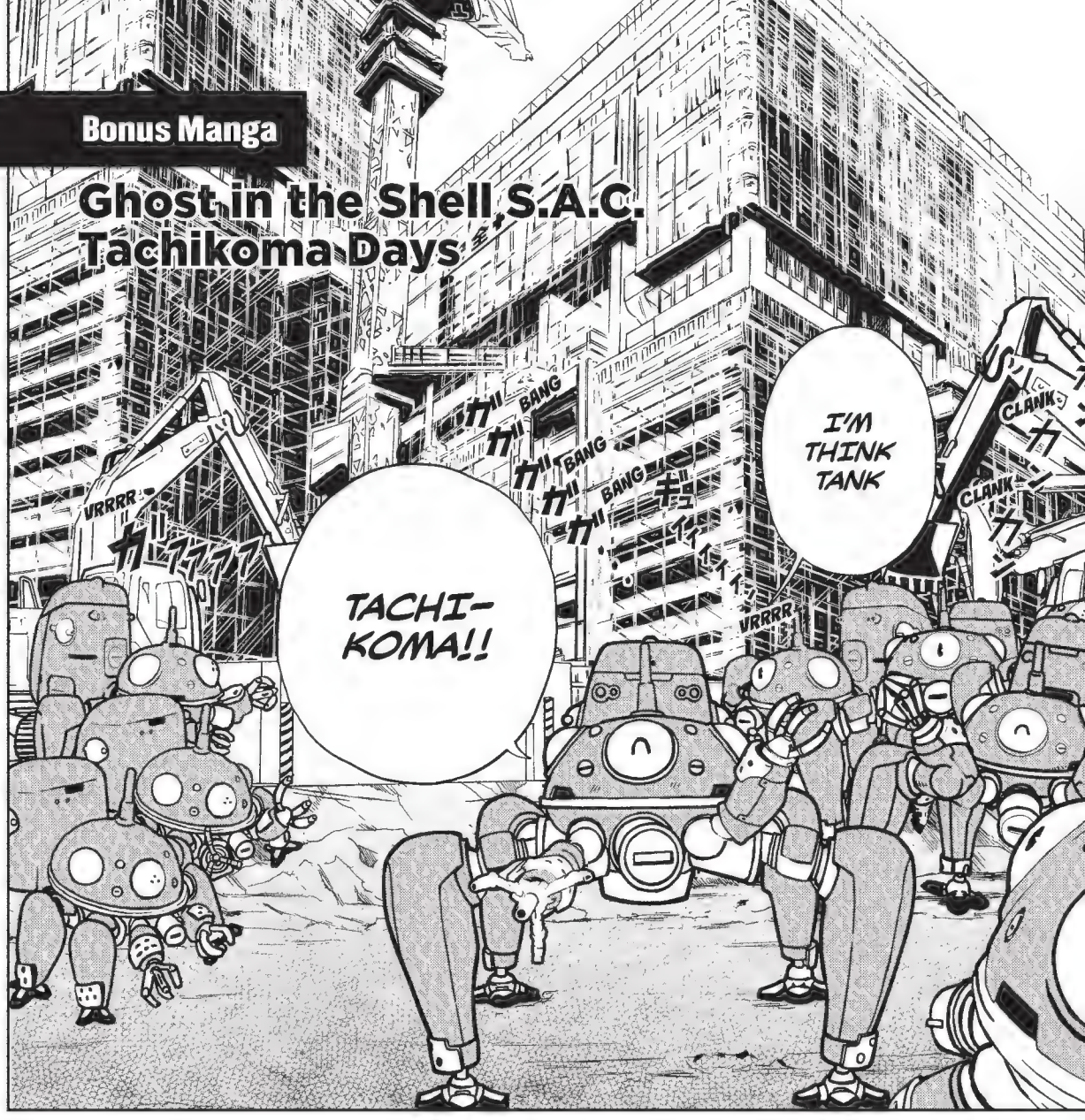
---DAMN IT---
GOT IT!
TMP
ARREST HIM.
LET'S GO.
STAND UP.
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US ALL ABOUT YOU IN THE DAYS TO COME.
HEH HEH.
WHAT A BIG SHOT---

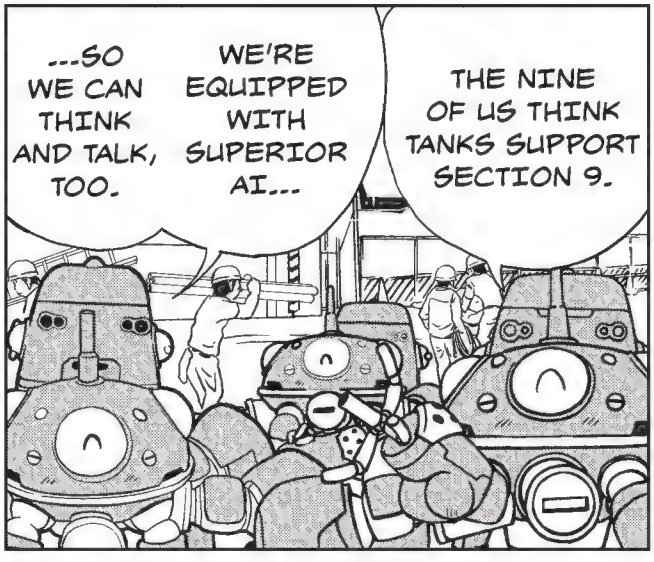
.....
!!
THE MINISTER'S PRIVATE JET, HM? SHAME YOU COULDN'T BE ON IT.
ZOOOOOM
BECAUSE...
...YOU'RE JUST AN IMPOSTOR, AFTER ALL.

#010 / End

Bonus Manga

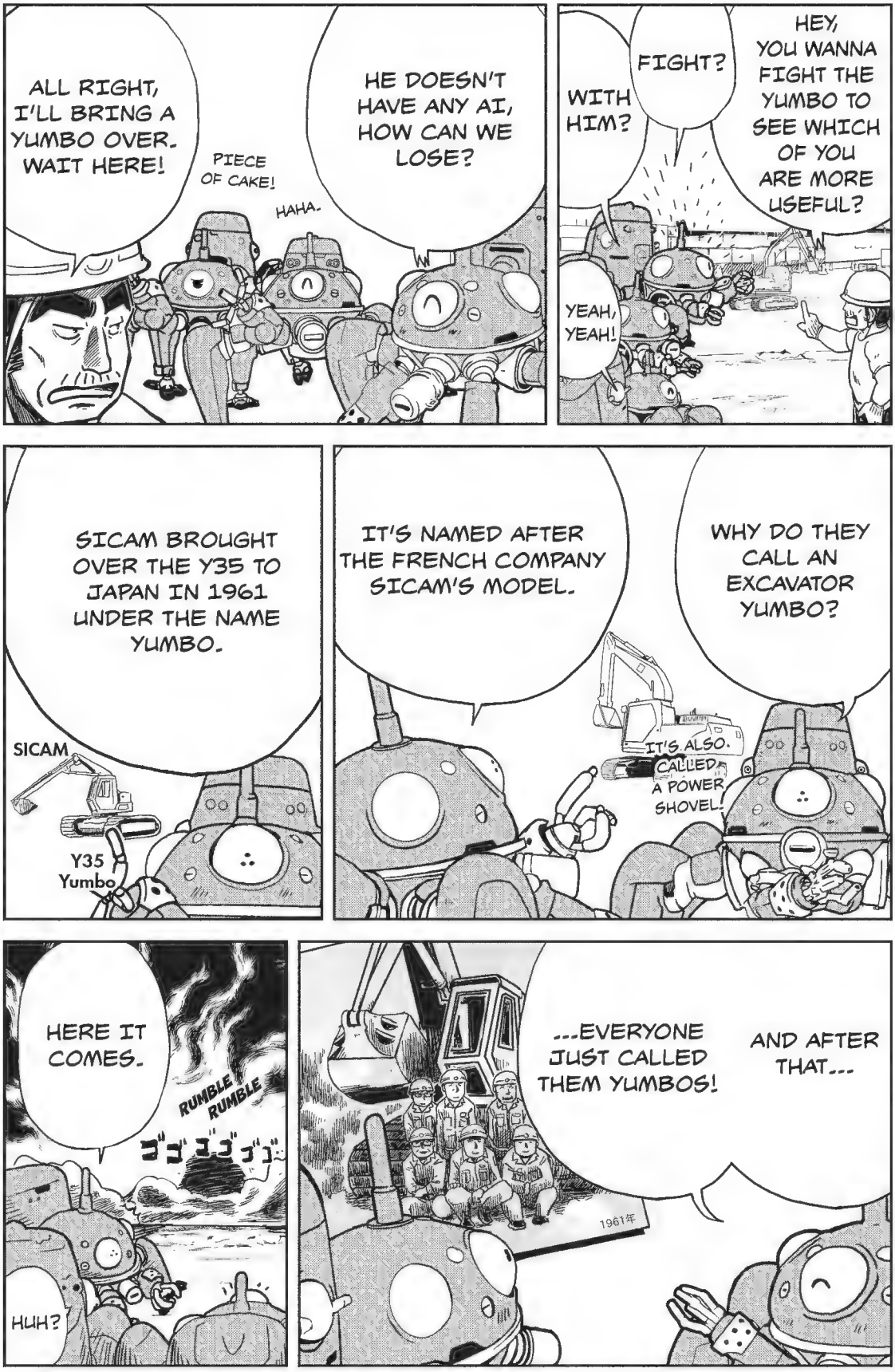
Ghost in the Shell S.A.C. Tachikoma Days

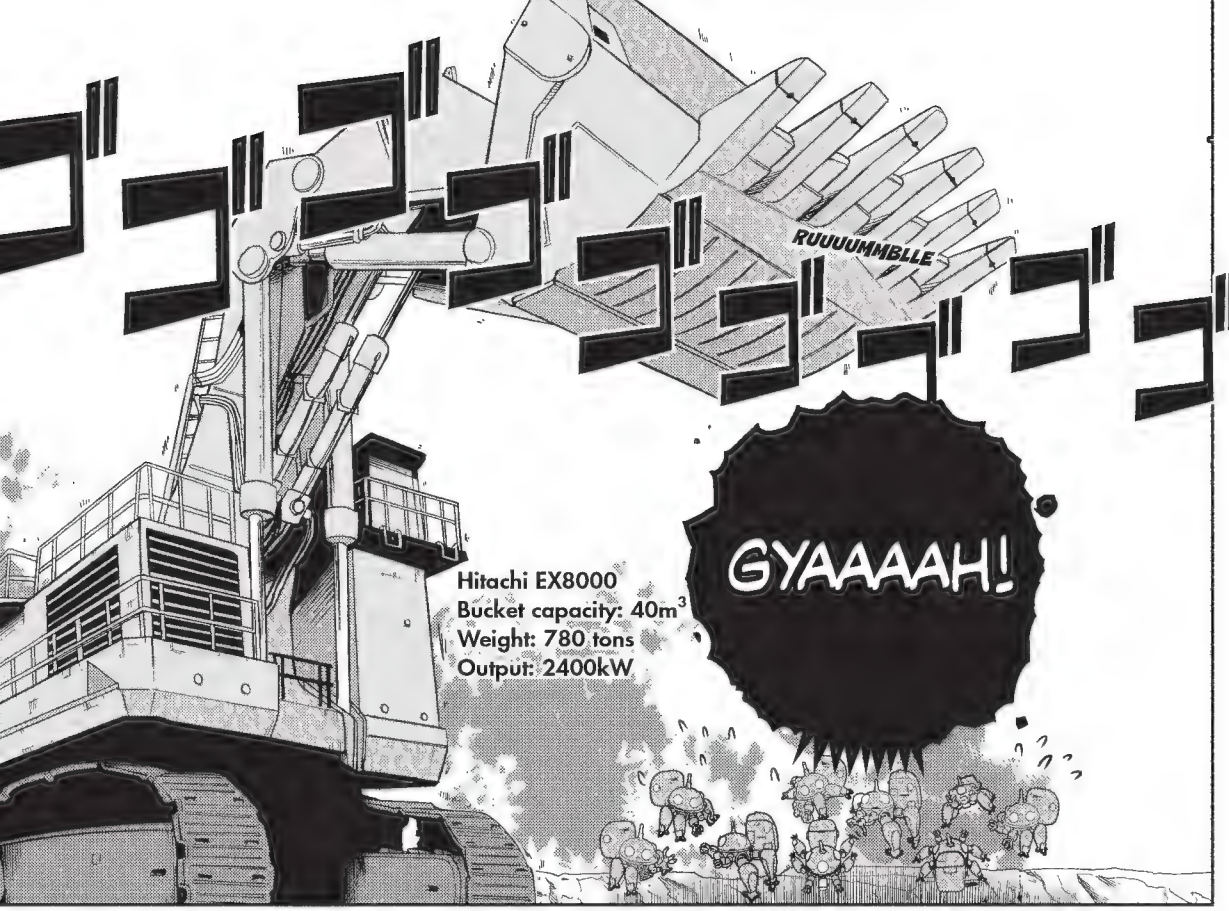


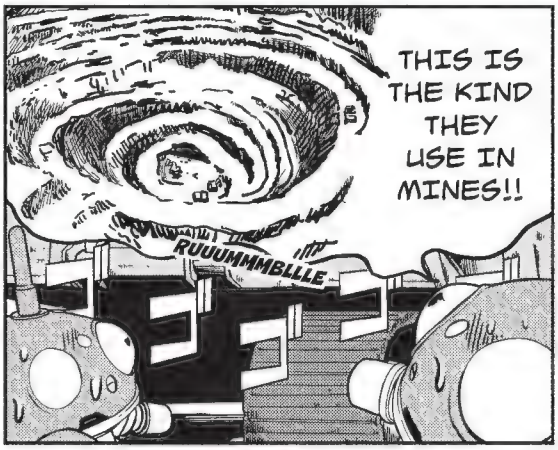


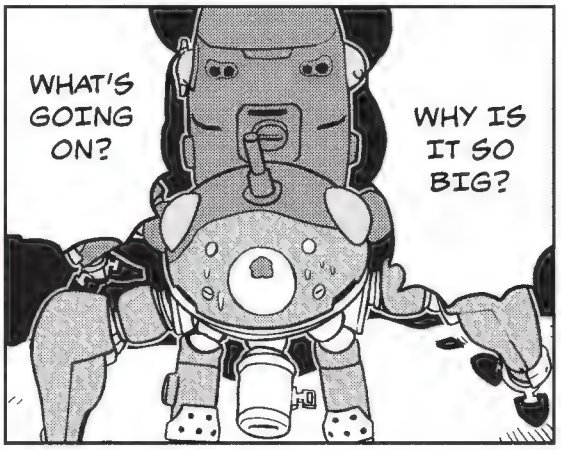
Masayuki Yamamoto

I DON'T SEE HOW WE WILL GAIN EXPERIENCE THIS WAY.
SIMPLE TASKS SUCH AS DIGGING HOLES AND HAULING DIRT.
PLOP
PLOP
DIG
DIG
WE'RE OBSERVING SOCIETY.
BECAUSE MAJOR TOLD US TO GET MORE EXPERIENCE.
WHY, YOU ASK?
GO ON!
HEY, NEWBIE! IT'S TEN YEARS TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO USE THE SCAFFOLD!
BANG
SHOOM
WOW!
HUH?
HEY, LET US HAMMER!
TCH.
SMART ALEC NEWBIES!
BUUU
THIS WORK IS TOO SIMPLE!
WE CAN'T GAIN EXPERIENCE LIKE THIS!
PLEASE GIVE US MORE ADVANCED WORK!
BOSS!

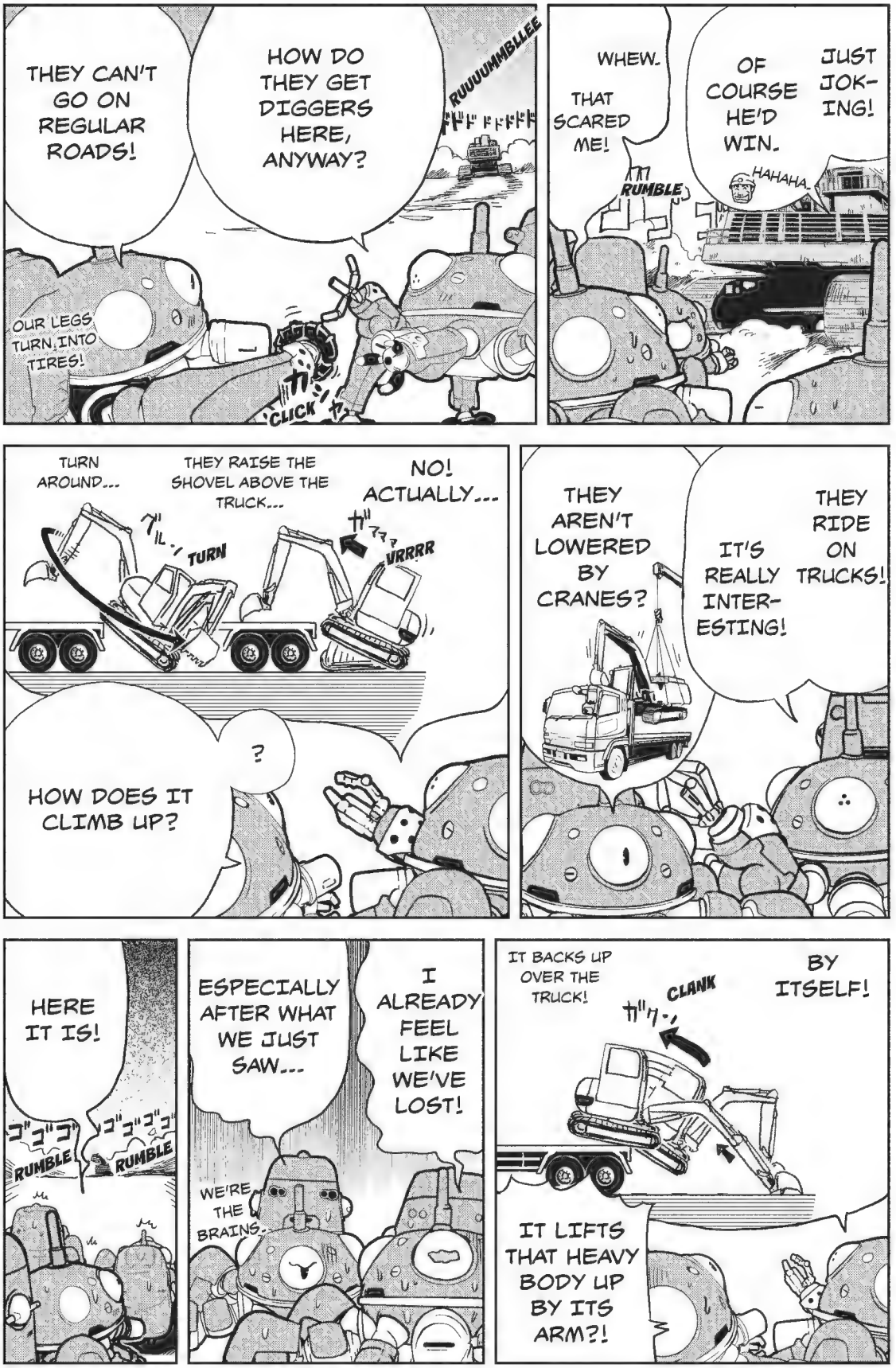

ALL RIGHT, I'LL BRING A YUMBO OVER. WAIT HERE!
PIECE OF CAKE!
HAHA.
HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY AI, HOW CAN WE LOSE?
WITH HIM?
FIGHT?
HEY, YOU WANNA FIGHT THE YUMBO TO SEE WHICH OF YOU ARE MORE USEFUL?
YEAH, YEAH!
SICAM BROUGHT OVER THE Y35 TO JAPAN IN 1961 UNDER THE NAME YUMBO.
SICAM
Y35 Yumbo
IT'S NAMED AFTER THE FRENCH COMPANY SICAM'S MODEL.
WHY DO THEY CALL AN EXCAVATOR YUMBO?
IT'S ALSO CALLED A POWER SHOVEL.
HERE IT COMES.
RUMBLE RUMBLE
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
HUH?
...EVERYONE JUST CALLED THEM YUMBOS!
AND AFTER THAT...
1961年

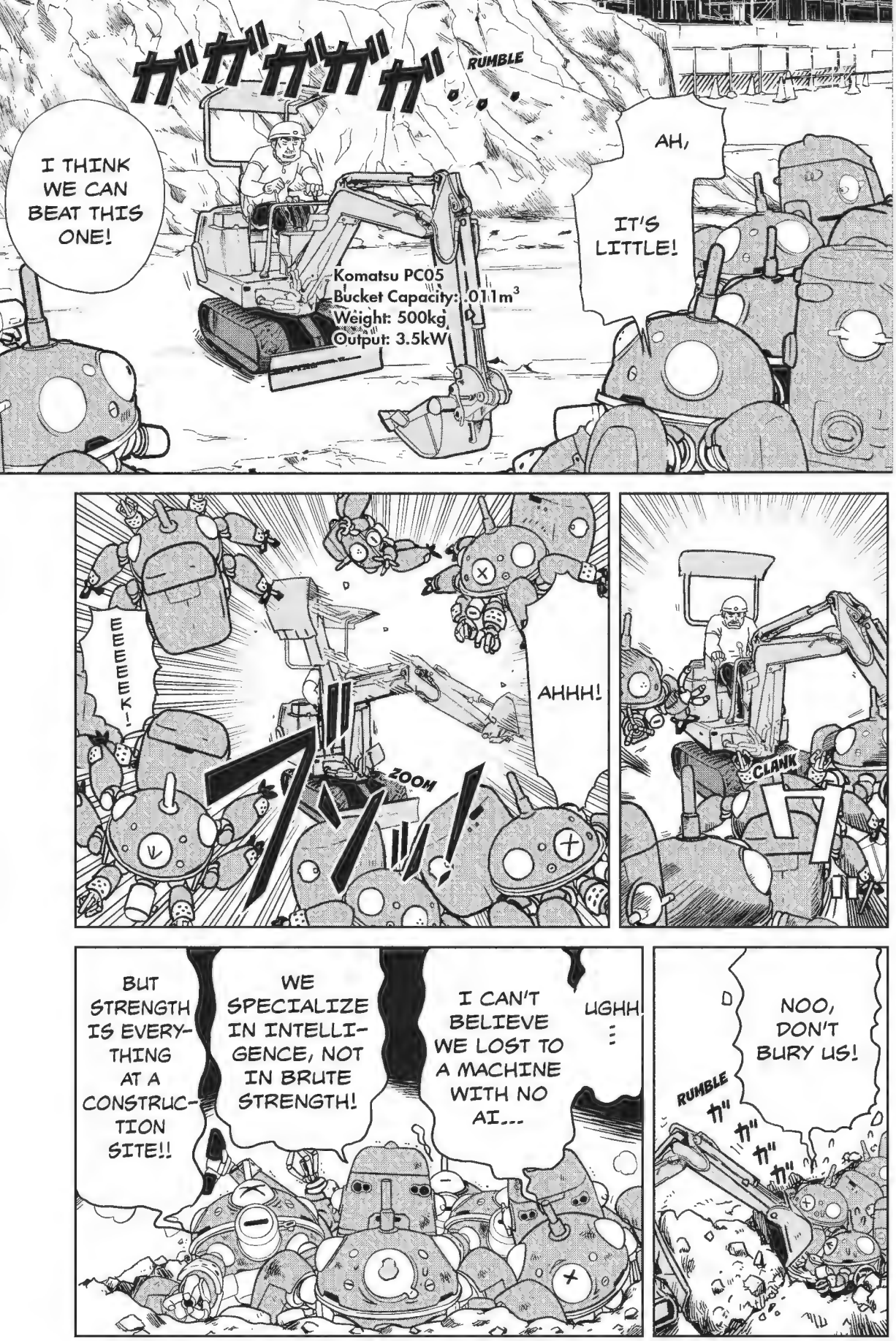

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
RUUUUMMBLLE
Hitachi EX8000
Bucket capacity: 40m³
Weight: 780 tons
Output: 2400kW
GYAAAAH!

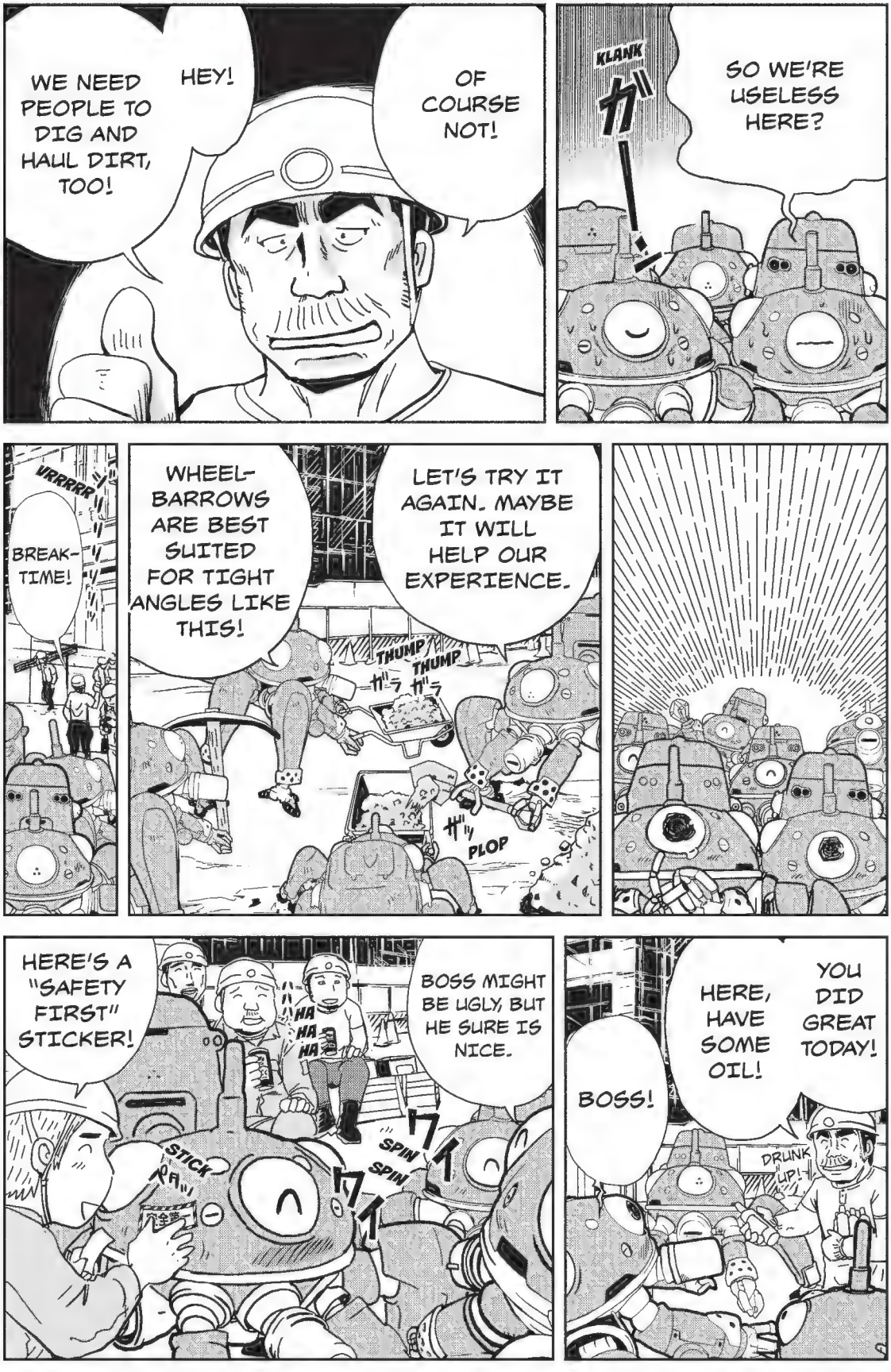

THIS IS THE KIND THEY USE IN MINES!!
RUUUMMMBLLLE

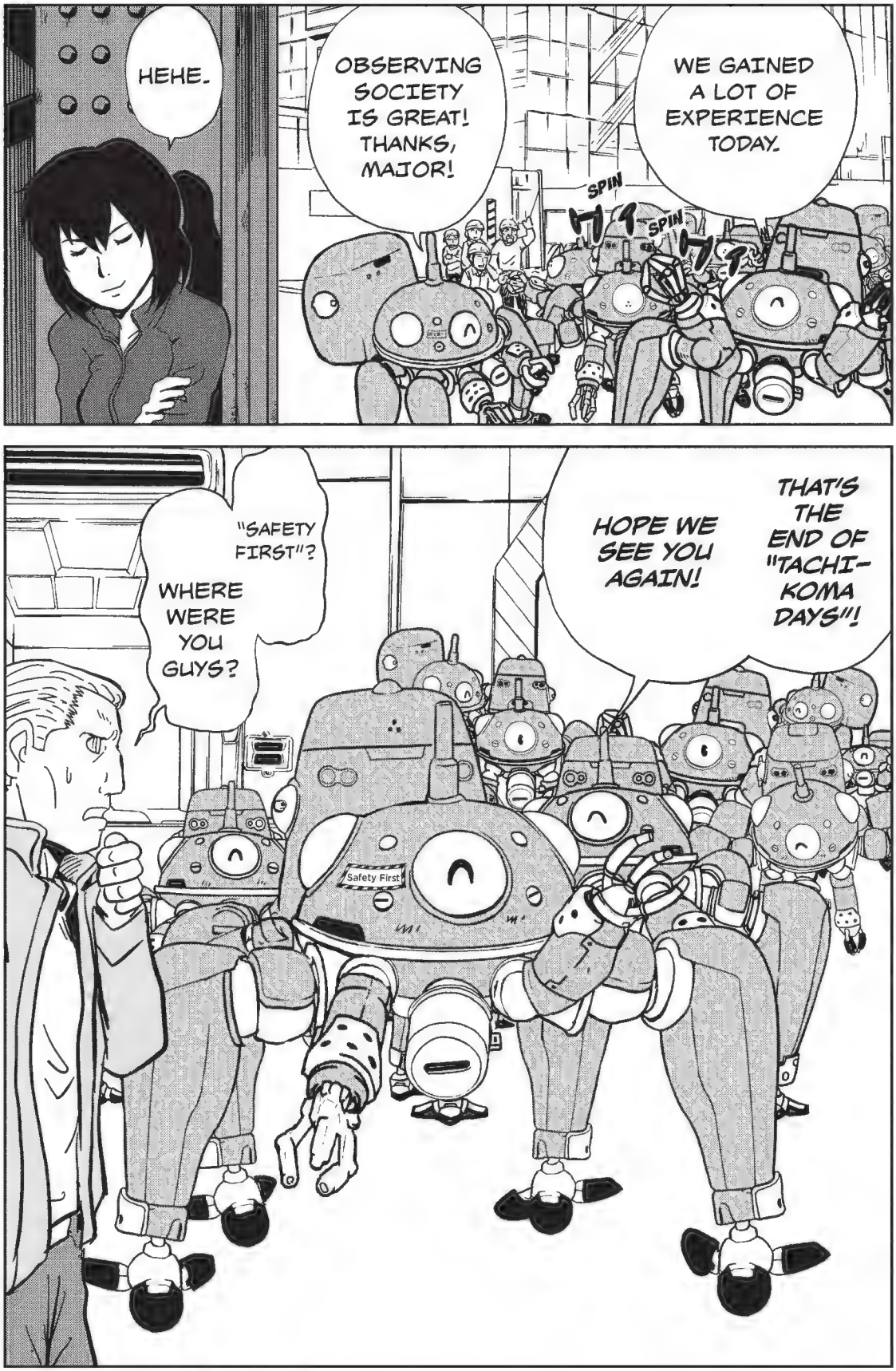

WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHY IS IT SO BIG?

CHEATER! CHEATER!
WE CAN'T FIGHT IT...
IT'S AS BIG AS A MOUN-TAIN!
YOU COULD FIT SIX DUMP TRUCKS IN IT!!


THEY CAN'T GO ON REGULAR ROADS!
HOW DO THEY GET DIGGERS HERE, ANYWAY?
RUUUUMMBLLEE
OUR LEGS TURN INTO TIRES!
CLICK
WHEW. THAT SCARED ME!
RUMBLE
OF COURSE HE'D WIN.
HAHAHA.
JUST JOK-ING!
TURN AROUND...
THEY RAISE THE SHOVEL ABOVE THE TRUCK...
NO! ACTUALLY...
TURN
VRRRR
HOW DOES IT CLIMB UP?
?
THEY AREN'T LOWERED BY CRANES?
IT'S REALLY INTER-ESTING!
THEY RIDE ON TRUCKS!
HERE IT IS!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ESPECIALLY AFTER WHAT WE JUST SAW...
I ALREADY FEEL LIKE WE'VE LOST!
WE'RE THE BRAINS.
IT BACKS UP OVER THE TRUCK!
CLANK
BY ITSELF!
IT LIFTS THAT HEAVY BODY UP BY ITS ARM?!


ガガガガガ...
RUMBLE
I THINK WE CAN BEAT THIS ONE!
Komatsu PC05
Bucket Capacity: .011m³
Weight: 500kg
Output: 3.5kW
AH, IT'S LITTLE!
EEEEEK!
AHHH!
ZOOM
CLANK
BUT STRENGTH IS EVERYTHING AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE!!
WE SPECIALIZE IN INTELLIGENCE, NOT IN BRUTE STRENGTH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE LOST TO A MACHINE WITH NO AI...
UGHH...
NOO, DON'T BURY US!
RUMBLE
カ" カ" カ" カ"

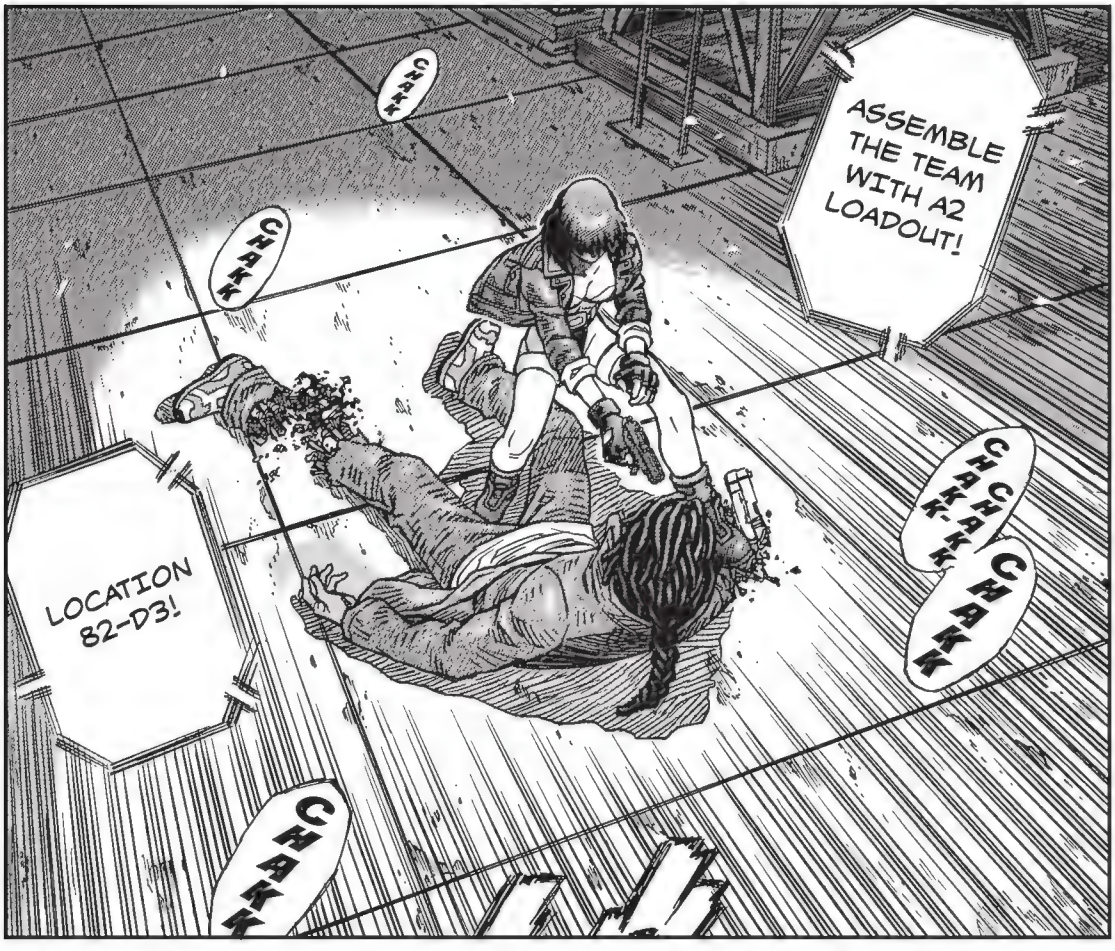

WE NEED PEOPLE TO DIG AND HAUL DIRT, TOO!
HEY!
OF COURSE NOT!
KLANK
SO WE'RE USELESS HERE?
VRRRRR
BREAK-TIME!
WHEEL-BARROWS ARE BEST SUITED FOR TIGHT ANGLES LIKE THIS!
LET'S TRY IT AGAIN. MAYBE IT WILL HELP OUR EXPERIENCE.
THUMP
THUMP
PLOP
HERE'S A "SAFETY FIRST" STICKER!
HA HA HA
BOSS MIGHT BE UGLY, BUT HE SURE IS NICE.
STICK
SPIN
SPIN
BOSS!
HERE, HAVE SOME OIL!
YOU DID GREAT TODAY!
DRUNK UP!



BONUS MANGA / END

TRANSLATION NOTES

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.



Loadout, p 23

A military term describing specific equipment, ammunition, tools, and clothing to be used during an operation.

AIR GEAR

BY OH!GREAT

Itsuki Minami needs no introduction—everybody's heard of the "Babyface" of the Eastside. He's the strongest kid at Higashi Junior High School, easy on the eyes but dangerously tough when he needs to be. Plus, Itsuki lives with the mysterious and sexy Noyamano sisters. Life's never dull, but it becomes downright dangerous when Itsuki leads his school to victory over vindictive Westside punks with gangster connections. Now he stands to lose his school, his friends, and everything he cares about. But in his darkest hour, the Noyamano girls give him an amazing gift, one that just might help him save his school: a pair of Air Trecks. These high-tech skates are more than just supercool. They'll enable Itsuki to execute the wildest, most aggressive moves ever seen—and introduce him to a thrilling and terrifying new world.

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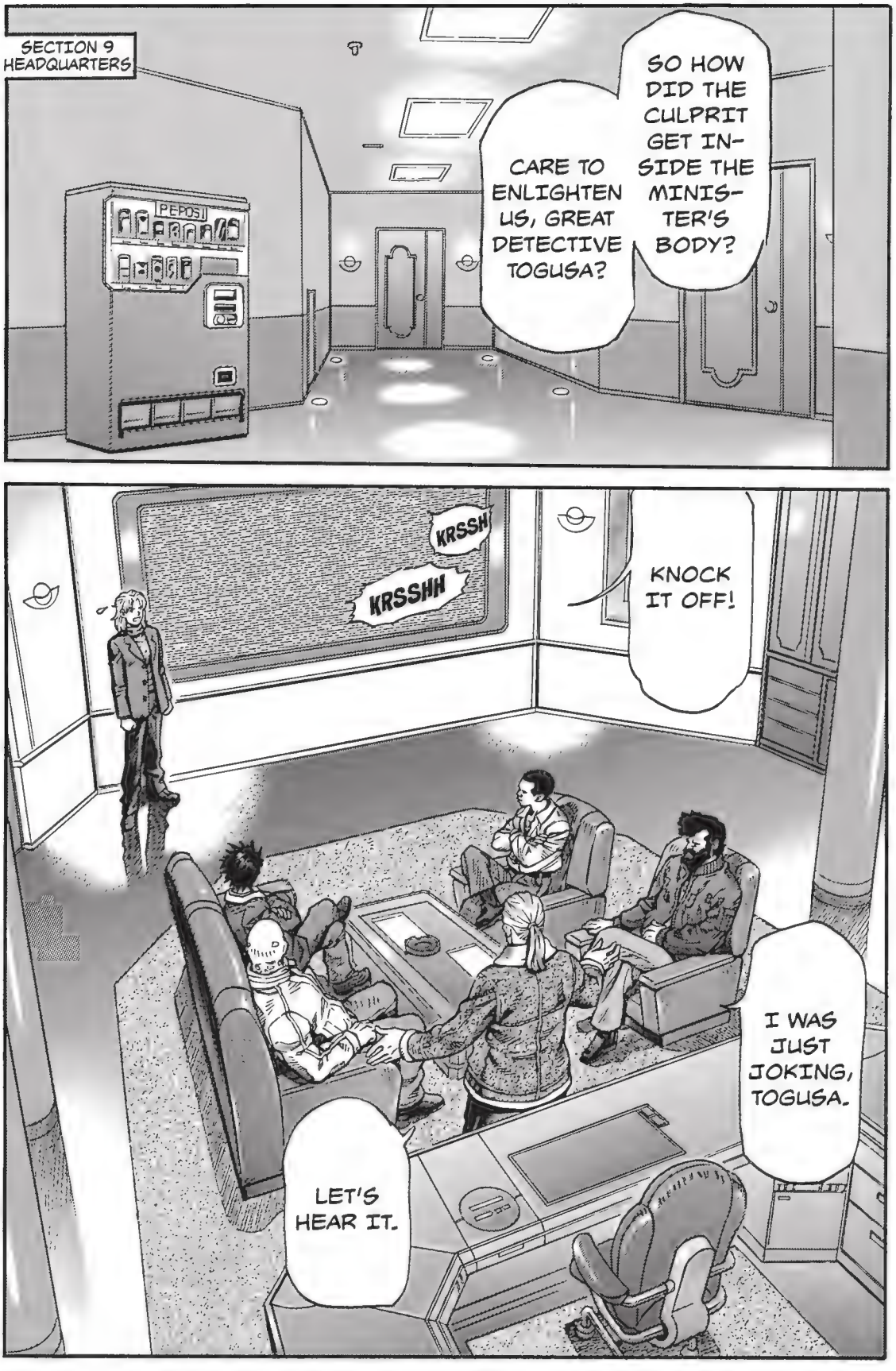
You are going the wrong way!

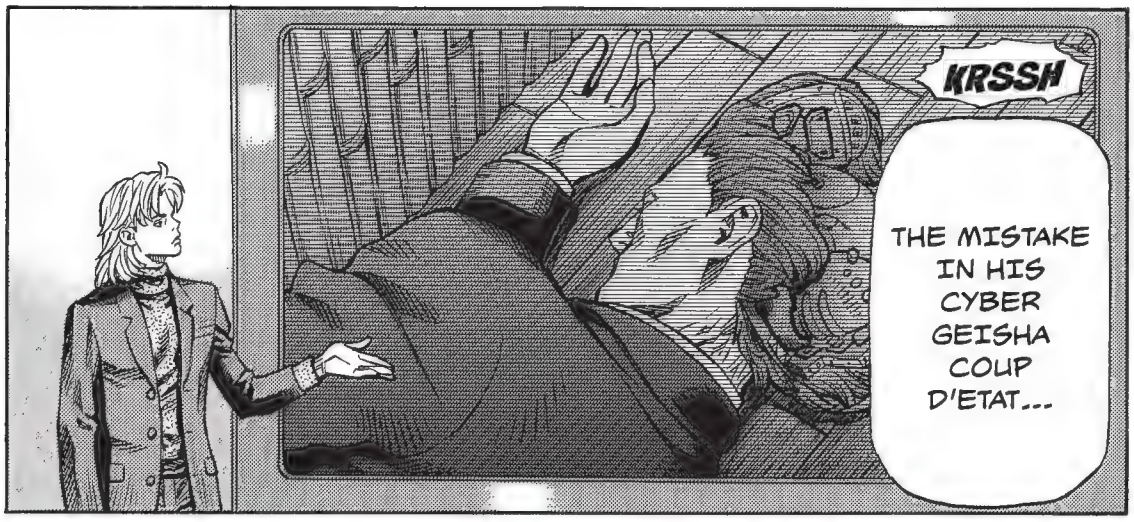
Manga is a completely different type of reading experience.

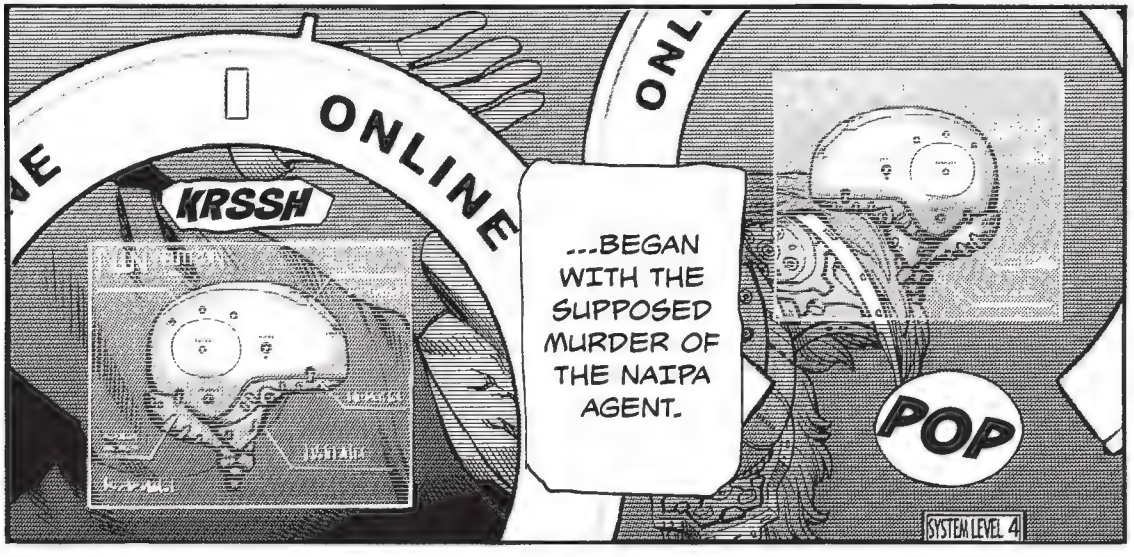
To start at the *beginning*, go to the *end!*

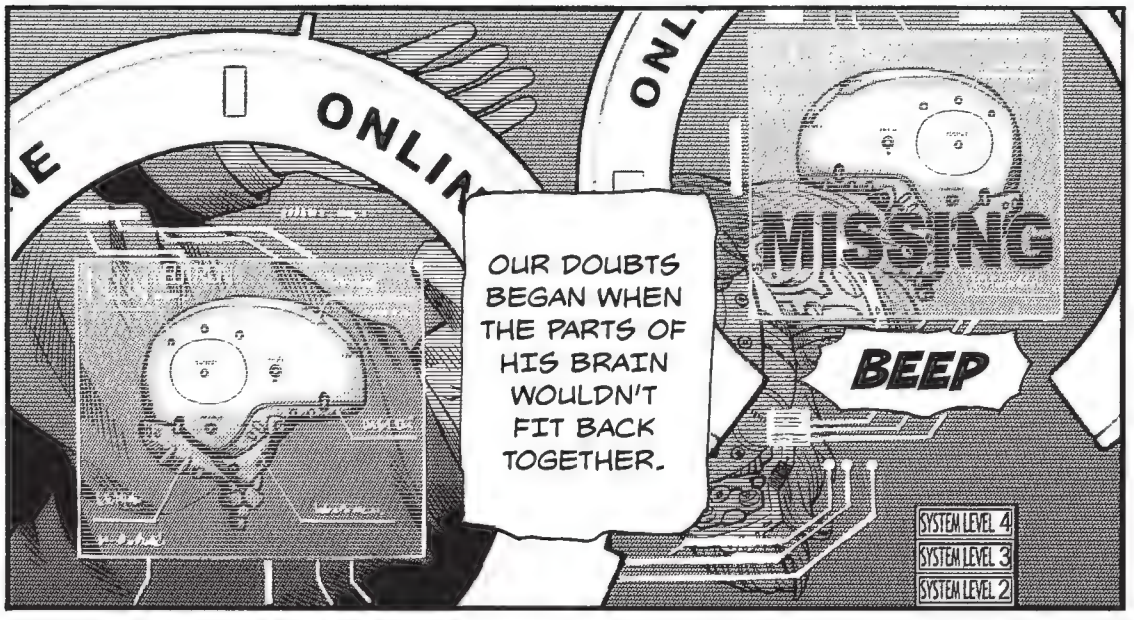
That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the *opposite* of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book, and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be.

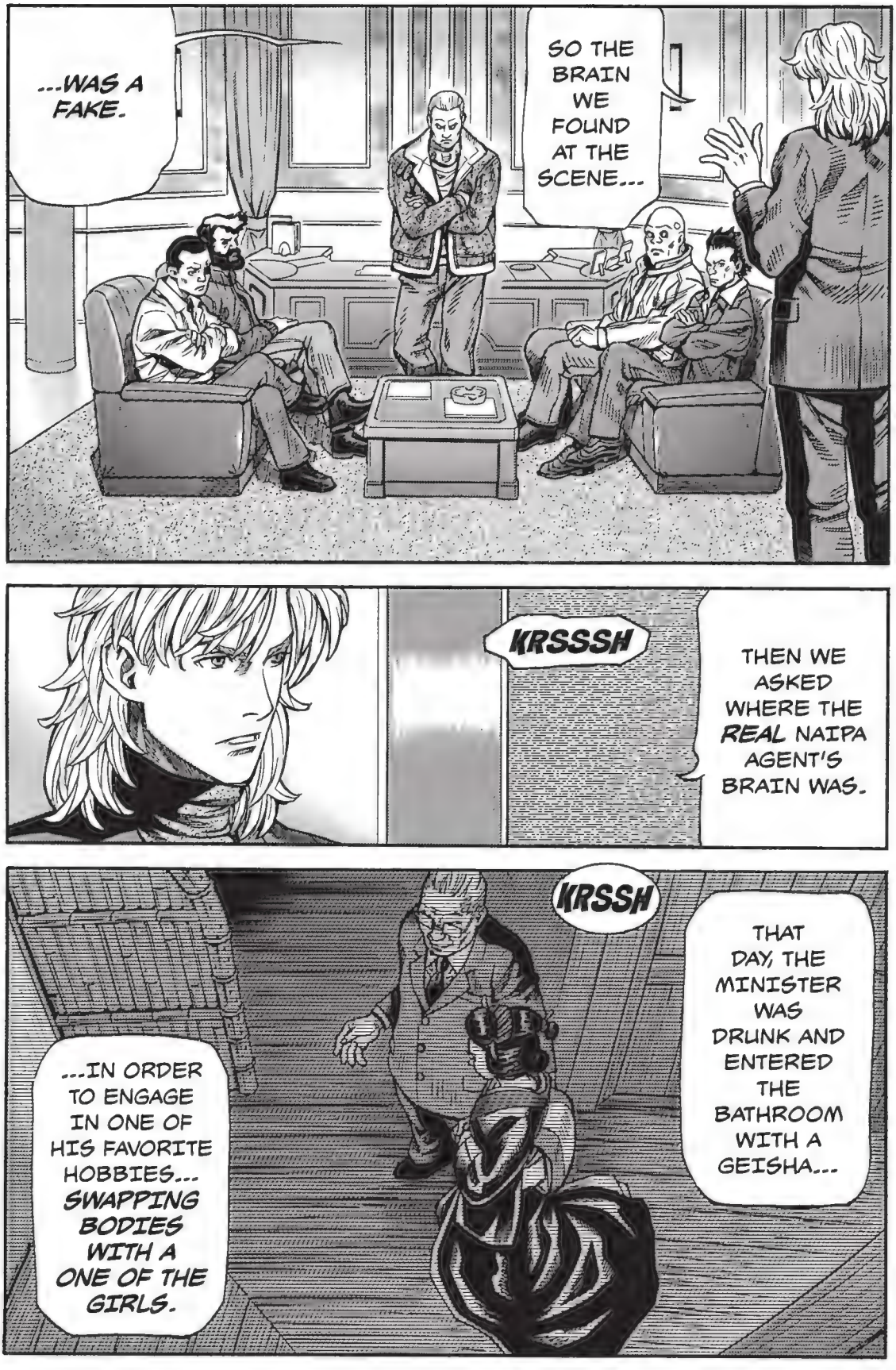
#011: The Truth


SECTION 9 HEADQUARTERS
PEPOSI
SO HOW DID THE CULPRIT GET IN-SIDE THE MINIS-TER'S BODY?
CARE TO ENLIGHTEN US, GREAT DETECTIVE TOGUSA?
KRSSH
KRSSHH
KNOCK IT OFF!
I WAS JUST JOKING, TOGUSA.
LET'S HEAR IT.


KRSSH
THE MISTAKE IN HIS CYBER GEISHA COUP D'ETAT...

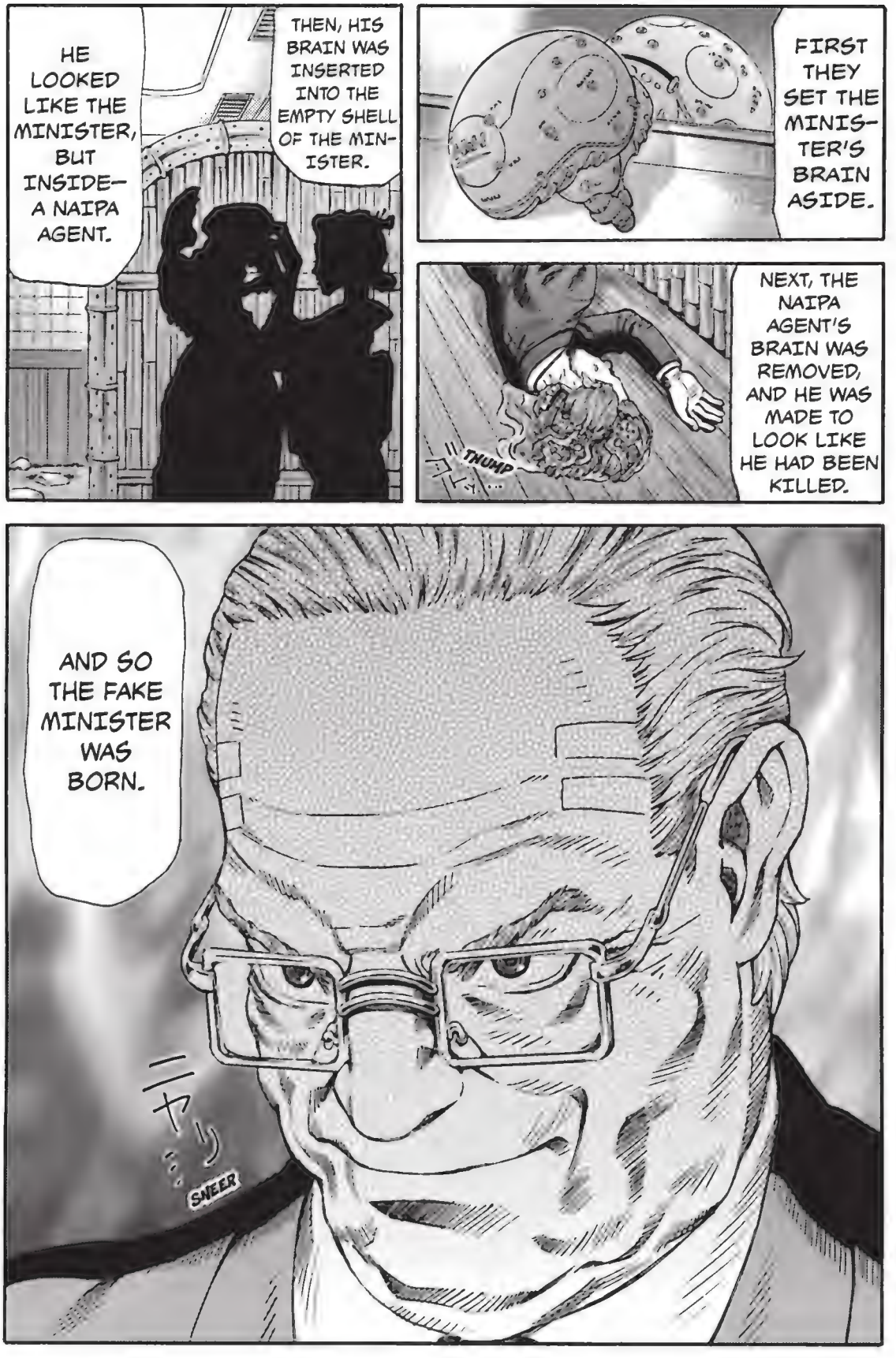

ONLINE
KRSSH
...BEGAN WITH THE SUPPOSED MURDER OF THE NAIPA AGENT.
POP
SYSTEM LEVEL 4

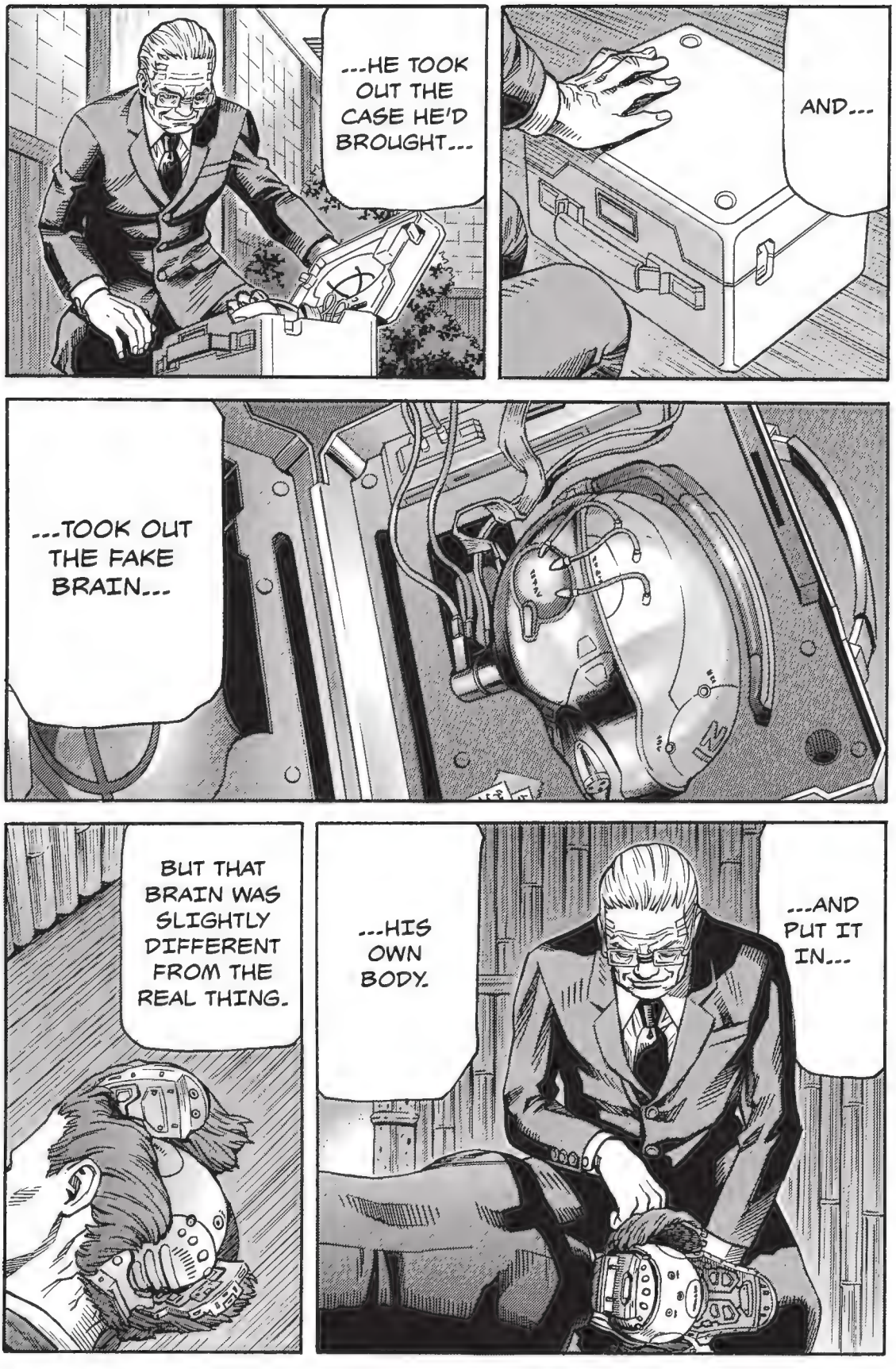

ONLIN
OUR DOUBTS BEGAN WHEN THE PARTS OF HIS BRAIN WOULDN'T FIT BACK TOGETHER.
MISSING
BEEP
SYSTEM LEVEL 4
SYSTEM LEVEL 3
SYSTEM LEVEL 2

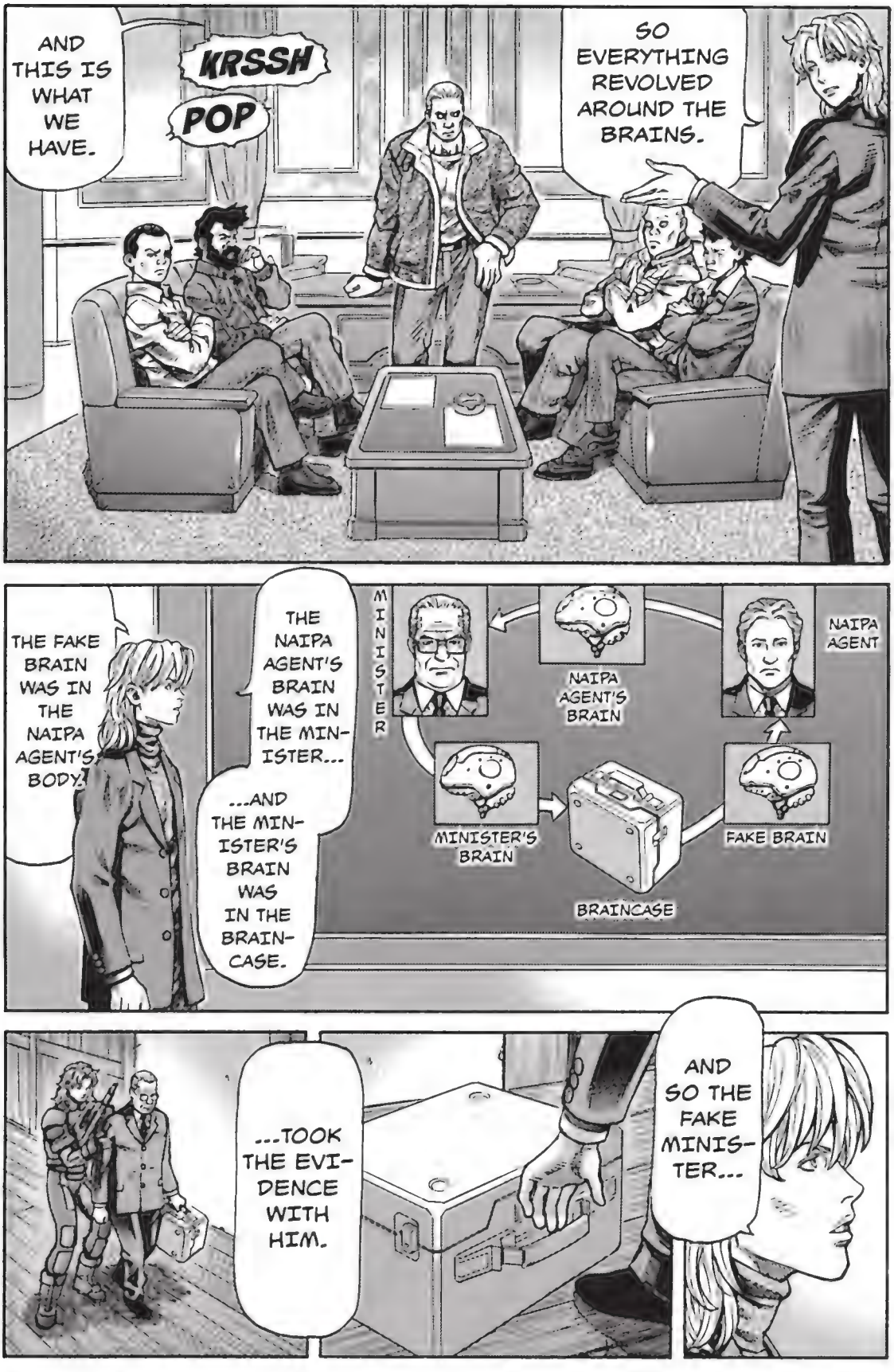

...WAS A FAKE.
SO THE BRAIN WE FOUND AT THE SCENE...
KRSSSH
THEN WE ASKED WHERE THE REAL NAIPA AGENT'S BRAIN WAS.
KRSSH
...IN ORDER TO ENGAGE IN ONE OF HIS FAVORITE HOBBIES... SWAPPING BODIES WITH A ONE OF THE GIRLS.
THAT DAY, THE MINISTER WAS DRUNK AND ENTERED THE BATHROOM WITH A GEISHA...

BUT THAT DAY, THE NAIPA AGENT FOLLOWED HIM IN THE BATHROOM.
TCH
WHAT A TERRIBLE HOBBY.
EVERY-THING AFTER THAT IS JUST A GUESS...
KRSSH
HE PROBABLY ASKED IF HE COULD PLAY ALONG, TOO.
IT'S TIME.
KSSRK
THAT PERSON BEING...
...THE NAIPA AGENT CONTACTED SOMEONE.
BUT AS SOON AS THE GEISHA TOOK OUT THE MIN-ISTER'S BRAIN...

THE HACKER WAS IN ON IT WITH THE NAIPA AGENT?!
...THE CYBORG HACKER BATŌ APPREHENDED.
TAKA TAKA
BEEP
ROGER!
...TO JACK INTO THE CYBER GEISHA.
TWITCH
BZZZT
FIRST, THE NAIPA AGENT TOLD THE HACKER...
...CREATED A DIVERSION.
ONCE CON-TROLLED BY THE HACKER, SHE...

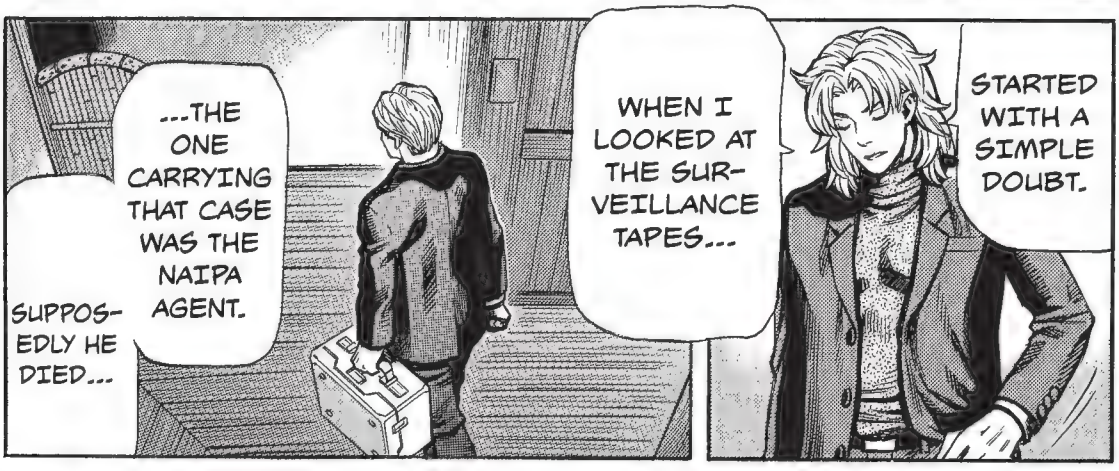

HE LOOKED LIKE THE MINISTER, BUT INSIDE— A NAIPA AGENT.
THEN, HIS BRAIN WAS INSERTED INTO THE EMPTY SHELL OF THE MINISTER.
FIRST THEY SET THE MINISTER'S BRAIN ASIDE.
THUMP
NEXT, THE NAIPA AGENT'S BRAIN WAS REMOVED, AND HE WAS MADE TO LOOK LIKE HE HAD BEEN KILLED.
AND SO THE FAKE MINISTER WAS BORN.
SNEER

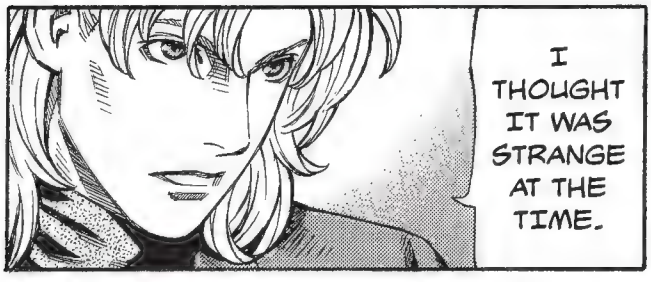

...HE TOOK OUT THE CASE HE'D BROUGHT...
AND...
...TOOK OUT THE FAKE BRAIN...
BUT THAT BRAIN WAS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE REAL THING.
...HIS OWN BODY.
...AND PUT IT IN...


AND THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE.
KRSSH
POP
SO EVERYTHING REVOLVED AROUND THE BRAINS.
THE FAKE BRAIN WAS IN THE NAIPA AGENT'S BODY.
THE NAIPA AGENT'S BRAIN WAS IN THE MINISTER...
...AND THE MINISTER'S BRAIN WAS IN THE BRAINCASE.
MINISTER
NAIPA AGENT'S BRAIN
NAIPA AGENT
MINISTER'S BRAIN
FAKE BRAIN
BRAINCASE
...TOOK THE EVIDENCE WITH HIM.
AND SO THE FAKE MINISTER...

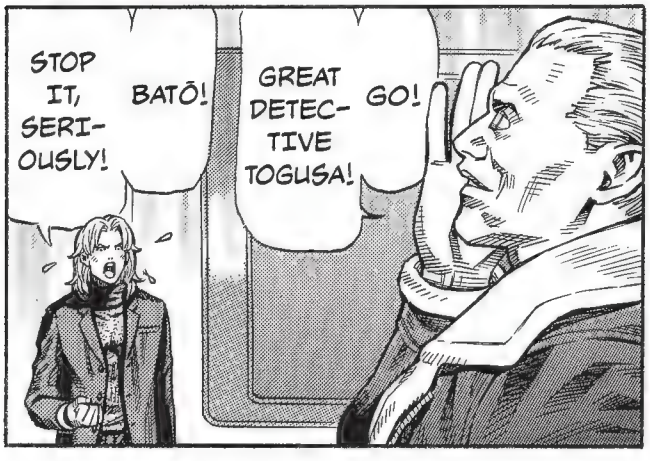
...IN FRONT OF MY EYES.
RIGHT...
HEY, TOGUSA.
HEY, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
...AND WAS ATTACKED.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE SECRETARY SAW WHAT HAPPENED...
I KNOW...
YEAH...

...YOU FIGURED THIS ALL OUT.
I'M IMPRESSED...

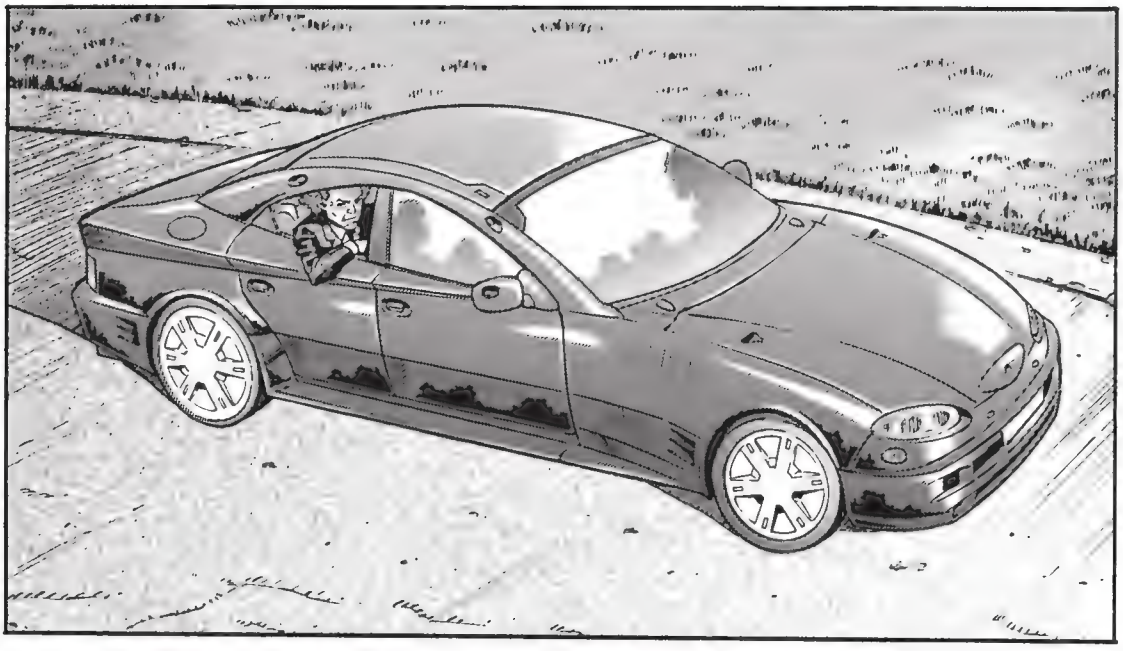

STARTED WITH A SIMPLE DOUBT.
WHEN I LOOKED AT THE SURVEILLANCE TAPES...
...THE ONE CARRYING THAT CASE WAS THE NAIPA AGENT.
SUPPOSEDLY HE DIED...

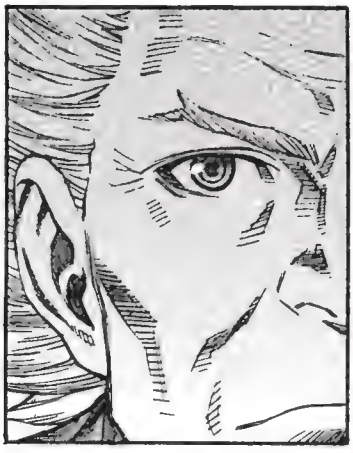

I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE AT THE TIME.

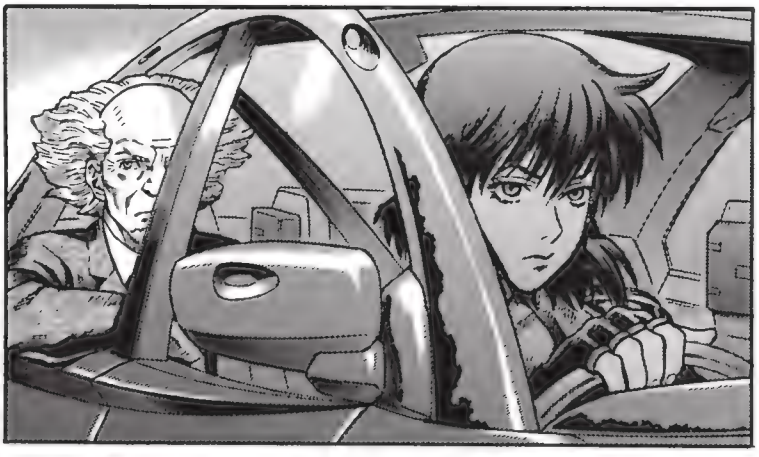
...BUT THE ONE WHO PICKED IT UP LATER WAS THE MINISTER.

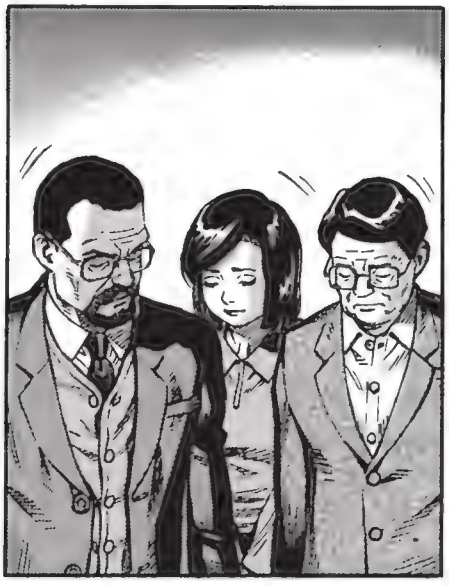

STOP IT, SERIOUSLY!
BATŌ!
GREAT DETECTIVE TOGUSA!
GO!

COUGH
BUT I GUESS THE REAL REASON ⋮
CALM DOWN...
HAHA.
...WAS THE ADVICE MAJOR GAVE ME.

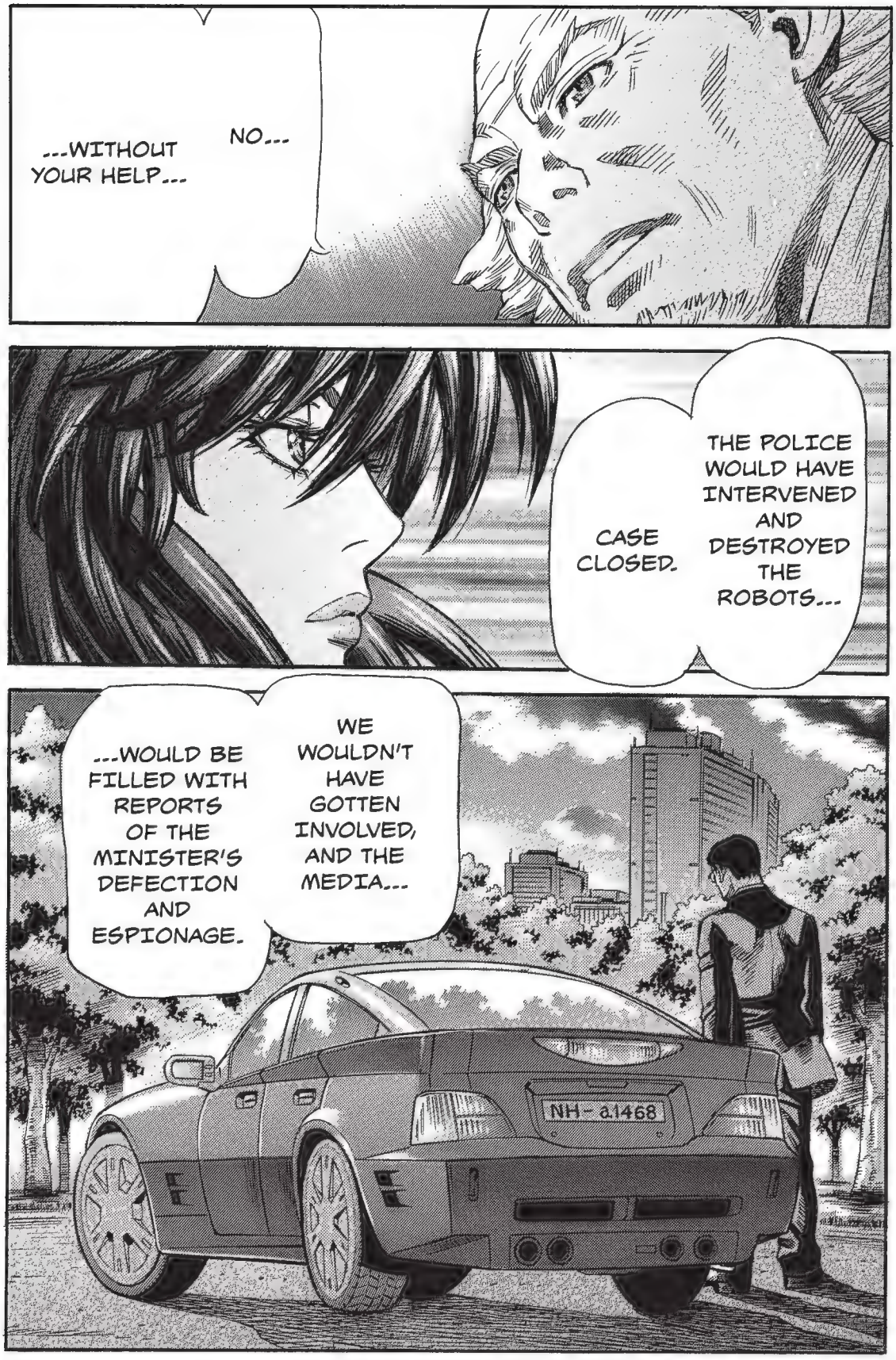








I APOLOGIZED FOR PUTTING HER DAUGHTER IN DANGER.
THOSE ARE THE SECRETARY'S PARENTS.
RUSTLE
...BUT SHE'LL STILL BE ABLE TO HAVE A NORMAL LIFE.
SHE MIGHT HAVE SOME SPEECH DAMAGE...
SHE'S UNDERGOING SURGERY TO RESTORE BRAIN FUNCTION...
I'M SORRY WE COULDN'T HANDLE THIS CASE ON OUR SIDE.
I SEE.


...WITHOUT YOUR HELP...
NO...
CASE CLOSED.
THE POLICE WOULD HAVE INTERVENED AND DESTROYED THE ROBOTS...
...WOULD BE FILLED WITH REPORTS OF THE MINISTER'S DEFECTION AND ESPIONAGE.
WE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN INVOLVED, AND THE MEDIA...
NH - a.1468

I'M IMPRESSED YOU GOT PERMISSION FROM ALL THOSE POLITICIANS SO QUICKLY.
BUT...
I'M ALWAYS PREPARED.

THE PLANE WAS DE-LAYED...
...BUT THE WEATHER WAS FINE ALL ALONG.
THAT'S HOW WE DO IT...
...AT SECTION 9.

PAT
NT-2.1468

#011 END

Episode 1:Section 9 END